

‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association

The Brown Book

(2020-2023)



Warsaw, March 2023

Summary

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association publishes the *'Brown Book'* – documentation of racist, xenophobic and homophobic crimes and acts of discrimination in Poland in the years 2020-2023.

The long-time author of the *'Brown Book'* was the late Marcin Kornak (1968-2014), founder of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, social justice activist and poet. He was the mind behind social campaigns promoting respect and diversity. 20 March marks the ninth anniversary of his death.

The United Nations General Assembly established 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 1966 to commemorate the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa. On this day in 1960, police opened fire on Black people protesting against apartheid. Sixty-nine protesters were killed and one hundred and eighty were injured. The tragic anniversary is commemorated all over the world to express opposition to racism, discrimination, and xenophobia.

The latest edition of the *'Brown Book'* on more than 300 pages describes cases of physical assaults on the basis of skin colour, language, or religion, as well as acts of verbal aggression. In addition, the report documents street demonstrations with slogans inciting hatred, acts of discrimination against minorities, and fascist banners displayed at football stadiums. Examples of hostility towards refugees from Ukraine can also be found therein.

- 'In the *Brown Book* we paid a lot of attention to online hate speech, including the widely disseminated anti-Ukrainian conspiracy theories, disinformation, and direct abuse against Ukrainians', said Dr. Anna Tatar, co-author of the report.

- 'The *Brown Book* documents negative social attitudes towards minority groups. In this edition of the report, we have described, among other things, attacks on people of Asian origin as well as other minorities who were accused of spreading COVID-19', said Jacek Dziegielewski from the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association.

Selected examples of events documented in the ‘Brown Book 2020-2023’:

SZCZECIN. In mid-March 2020, unknown perpetrators devastated a plaque with an inscription commemorating the Jewish residents of the city who were murdered during World War II in the Belzec extermination camp. Someone painted a swastika and the SS symbol on the plaque.

LUKOW. On 19 March 2020, three pupils of a local elementary school attacked a fifty-nine-year-old Vietnamese-born resident of the town. They shouted insults, including ‘*She comes from China and has coronavirus*’, ‘*F*ck off you slut!*’, and ‘*Get the f*ck out of here, you whore, you f*cking Chinese woman!*’ The perpetrators hurled stones and litter at her, spat in her direction, and one of them pushed her.

GDANSK. On 20 June 2020, an unidentified assailant attacked a man of Egyptian origin. He yelled at him, ‘*Get out from here, you black w*ore*’ and punched him in the face. He also tried to stab him with a knife.

WARSAW. On 17 February 2021, a gay couple was attacked. The assailant shouted, ‘*Stop holding hands, children are watching*’ at the men and stabbed one of them in the back with a knife. The injured man was hospitalized.

POZNAN. On 14 March 2021, on a tram one of the passengers made threats and racist insults towards a Guatemalan man travelling with his wife and child.

SZCZECIN. On 12 December 2021, Konfederacja (Confederation, far-right party) organised a ‘Shooting Competition named after Kyle Rittenhouse’ (Kyle Rittenhouse shot two participants of Black Lives Matter protests in the USA in 2020). The poster announcing the competition contained an image of Rittenhouse with a machine gun and a Confederate flag, a symbol of racial discrimination.

SEDZISZOW MALOPOLSKI. On 13 January 2022, a resident of the town brutally beat a homeless man. He punched him in the face twice, and when the victim fell to the ground, he kicked him unconscious in the head, causing numerous injuries. As a result of this attack, Slawomir K. died after spending several days in hospital.

BIALYSTOK. On 15 January 2022, during the demonstration of Covid-19 deniers, its participants chanted, ‘*This is Poland and not Polin!*’ (the word means Poland in Hebrew; for the extreme right it has become synonymous with the alleged rule of Jews over Poland).

KATOWICE. On 9 June 2022, at a bus stop and on the bus an unidentified man attacked a teenage boy from Ukraine. He threatened him and hurled xenophobic slurs at him.

LUBLIN. On 30 August 2022, three Black students were attacked by a group of several men. The attackers shouted '*Black c*nts*' and punched them repeatedly.

WARSAW. On 24 September 2022, the streets of Warsaw witnessed the protest march under the slogan '*Stop Ukrainization of Poland*', organised by Konfederacja Korony Polskiej (Confederation of the Polish Crown), a far-right party headed by Member of Parliament Grzegorz Braun. The participants unfurled banners '*This is Poland and not Ukropol!*' (a conspiracy theory claiming that Poland is being overtaken by Ukrainians) and '*Stop replacing the ethnic structure of Poland*'.

LUBLIN. On 7 January 2023, two men attacked a Ukrainian woman, her 13-year-old son and her pregnant daughter. They shouted at them, '*Ukrainian wh*res*', '*F*ck Ukrainians*', '*Get the hell out of Poland*'. When the boy tried to call the police, they knocked him to the ground and punched him on the head. They also pushed the pregnant woman. They were charged with publicly insulting the Ukrainian citizens, making death threats, and using violence.

POZNAN. On 7 March 2023, activists of Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth, a far-right organisation) disrupted a meeting with Ukrainian writer Oksana Zabuzhko. They chanted '*Poland is for us!*' Meetings with the writer were also disrupted by members of Młodzież Wszechpolska on 21 November 2022 in Krakow and on 14 February 2023 in Warsaw.

GDANSK. On the night of 11/12 March 2023, two juvenile perpetrators painted a swastika on the entrance to the synagogue in Gdansk-Wrzeszcz. Three 'K' letters, which stand for Ku-Klux-Klan, also appeared on the façade.

In April 2022, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association published a report entitled '[Let's Maintain Solidarity with Refugees](#)' about cases of discrimination and hate speech against Ukrainians, refugees, and ethnic minorities in Poland in the context of the ongoing war. In January 2023, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association published a [report on hate speech](#) as well as antisemitic and anti-Ukrainian conspiracy theories propagated on the Media Narodowe (National Media) online tv channel. After the report had been published, the channel was removed by YouTube.

The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association is an independent anti-racist organisation founded in Warsaw in 1996. It has monitored hate crimes and hate speech as well as campaigned against antisemitism and xenophobia, for peace, intercultural dialogue and human rights both in Poland and internationally.

From 1 March 2022 to 1 March 2023, data collection for the '*Brown Book*' was supported by the Henryk Wujec Civic Fund. Henryk Wujec (1940-2020) was an activist of the Workers' Defence Committee (KOR) in the 1970s, political prisoner in the 1980s, member of the International Auschwitz Council and civil society mentor.



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The Brown Book 2020-2023:

YEAR 2020

JANUARY

WARSAW. On 1 January, a **Konfederacja (Confederation)** Member of Parliament **Krzysztof Bosak** and former leader of the **All-Polish Youth**, published a statement with Islamophobic content on Twitter. He stated: *‘New mosques in Poland should not be created at all, unless at the highest level of the government it is considered that making a small exception from this rule would be profitable for the state. A serious state must have a serious policy’*. Freedom of religion is guaranteed in the Polish Constitution. In accordance with article 53: *‘Freedom of religion shall include the freedom to profess or to accept a religion by personal choice as well as to manifest such religion [...] by worshipping, praying, participating in ceremonies, performing of rites or teaching. Freedom of religion shall also include possession of sanctuaries and other places of worship for the satisfaction of the needs of believers’*.

MONASTERZ. At the beginning of January, in Monasterz, a village located in the Lubaczow region, *‘unknown perpetrators’* devastated the grave of members of Ukrainian armed formations. The plaque with the names of the dead was broken into pieces and, together with Ukrainian traditional towels, which had been hung on the tomb in commemoration, was thrown into one of the pits in the cemetery. In response to this act, a group of intellectuals, social activists and artists sent an open letter to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. Its signatories emphasised that: *‘The meaning of this devastation is clear – the perpetrators wanted to show that Polish citizens of Ukrainian nationality did not have the right to cemetery space on the territory of the Polish state. This denial of their right to remembrance and the brutal erasing of the trail of their existence from our common history brings to mind the worst historical associations’*. The signatories of the letter called on the authorities to condemn the desecration of Ukrainian graves. Since 2014, eight gravestones, crosses and monuments have been destroyed in Poland, some of them repeatedly. The tomb in Monasterz was first vandalised in 2015.

WARSAW. At the beginning of January, transport company Bolt published a details on Instagram of a conversation where internet celebrity **Marta Linkiewicz** spoke in a vulgar and xenophobic way about the drivers they employ. Addressing a company representative, she wrote: *‘F*ck the Ukrainians working for you on fake passports’*. In response, Bolt published a statement strongly condemning her words and questioning the possibility of any future cooperation with Linkiewicz: *‘We will not support hatred, racism and ordinary rudeness. There is already enough nasty content on the internet, and we will not add fuel to the fire’*. The company also turned off the option for followers to comment on the posts. Marta Linkiewicz is a so-called ‘patoinfluencer’ who publishes scandalous and vulgar comments on the internet about her private life. In January, her Instagram profile was viewed by over 1,100,000 users of the platform.

BELCHATOW. The January issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice'* (*'It's Us Fans'*), ran an article about the hooligans of **Pogon Szczecin** based in Stargard, containing an image of a flag which called for ideological violence. The hooligans held a banner showing a symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with the slogan *'Good night left side'*, which is often used by neo-fascist groups.

WARSAW. On 2 January, on *'W Tyle Wizji'* (*'Behind TV'*), a television programme, broadcast nationwide on public station **TVP Info**, state TV commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** expressed his support for the antisemitic content in the writings of **Roman Dmowski**, co-founder of the pre-war **Narodowa Demokracja** (**National Democracy** party) and the main ideologist of the Polish nationalist movement. Ziemkiewicz quoted various terms such as *'international Jewry'* and said: *'If what Dmowski wrote is Polish antisemitism then I am proud of such antisemitism'*. Ziemkiewicz interpreted Dmowski's thoughts as an apparent desire to explain *'conflicts of interest'* between Poles and Jews, while his co-host **Marcin Wolski** (former director of TVP2 – a national state-owned television channel) added the comment: *'The Palestinians have been trying [to talk to Jews – ed. note] for fifty years but somehow it isn't working'*.

WROCLAW. On 5 January, two men and a woman beat up a Korean citizen in a hostel in the Psie Pole district. The tourist met them while visiting the city and invited them to his hostel. He was attacked after deciding to thank them for the evening they had spent together and asking them to leave his room. They then punched him on the face and torso. Police were informed about the incident and the three attackers, who turned out to be residents of the Trzebnica region, were subsequently detained. The court placed them in pre-trial detention for three months.

ZAKOPANE. On 5 January, despite having lived in Poland for several years and holding Polish nationality (his parents were Belarusian), the Polish women's national cross-country skiing team coach Aleksander Wierietelny was subjected to xenophobic slurs by an unidentified man. Two-time Olympic cross-country skiing champion Justyna Kowalczyk, who trains under him, reported the incident on social media. She reported that, *'Unfortunately during our stay in Zakopane a very unpleasant event took place. In the evening, some otherwise unrecognisable man started attacking my coach [Wierietelny – translator's note], and threatened to «f*ck him up». This man was upset about [one of] my Facebook post[s]. For 10 mins, he proceeded to insult my coach, by saying things like «f*ck off back to Putin you Russian loser». This man didn't even have the courage to introduce himself'*. According to Kowalczyk, the man was reacting to her internet post with hostility. The post criticised the Zakopane Central Sport Centre (COS)'s insufficient preparation for the cross-country skiing trails (Wierietelny has been the head coach of the women's national cross-country skiing team since 2018, with Kowalczyk as his assistant).

AUGUSTOWO. On 6 January, Orthodox Christmas Eve, in Augustowo, a village located in the Bielsko region, someone painted the slogan *'Kacapas'* on an information board located near a church. In Polish, *'Kacapas'* is a derogatory term used to insult Russians as well as citizens of the former Soviet Union.

KRAKOW. On 8 January, the Roma in Poland Association reported to the police precinct in Oswiecim, racist comments published online about Viki Gabor, a 13-year-old singer of Roma descent, who won the 17th Eurovision competition for kids. Among the comments were some of these statements: *'You're so amazed by her, but she's not even Polish, but a German Gypsy'* and *'the presenters in charge of eliminations are promoting LGBT and multiculturalism... and precisely because Viktoria Gabor is a Gypsy from Germany, she got the nomination'* (the girl was born in Hamburg, now living in Krakow). In turn, on the **'Do Rzeczy'** right-wing magazine's portal, a user nicknamed **Mirek**, advocated for murder when commenting on the win of the teenage singer: *'Does anyone have a canister of petrol. We need to eliminate those weeds'*.

On 25 March 2020 the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Krakow-Krowodrza released a statement that declined launching an investigation into public defacement of Viki Gabor, admitting that *'the act does not possess the qualities of a prohibited act'*. On the 6 April 2020 the Roma in Poland Association issued a complaint against this decision to the District Court in Krakow-Krowodrza.

On 27 January 2021 the Court upheld the Prosecutor's Office decision to decline launching an investigation into public defacement of the teenage singer of Roma descent. At the same time the Court claimed that the ground for this decline is *'the lack of data supporting the suspicion of a prohibited act'*. In the justification for this decision, it was argued that statements such as *'Gypsy from Germany'* and *'German Gypsy'* are not defamatory, moreover, these words *'are rooted in the Polish language and are not objectively pejorative'* [sic!].

A separate proceeding was taking place regarding racist comments about Viki Gabor in the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Warszawa-Zoliborz, on the girl's lawyer's notice, and it also ended with a decline to investigate.

In relation to the Court's decision the Roma in Poland Association, in a statement published on 9 February 2021 emphasised that *'Roma people are humiliated and insulted – almost with impunity. This is a minority that a lot of internet users exhibit no legal or moral inhibitions towards. They know that they don't have to fear prosecution'*. The association informed that *'it issued notice multiple times in the last years to prosecutor's offices about the suspected criminal offense breaching article 119, 256 paragraph 1 and article 257 of the criminal code (inciting hatred on the grounds of national difference, public defamation of a group of people on the grounds of their national belonging), and in every case (every case!) prosecutor's office either declined to launch an investigation (proceedings) and in 2 cases after launching it, dismissed the proceedings'*.

WARSAW. On 9 January, **Waldemar Zboralski** published a post on Twitter in which he postulated the shooting or hanging of several opposition politicians. Zboralski wrote: *'There were times when in other countries traitors such as Grodzki, Lewandowski, Boni or Biedron were given a farewell by a firing squad or a hangman on the gallows. Today, these traitors humiliate the Polish Nation and its lawful government with impunity'*. The comment was illustrated by graphics depicting the execution of the communist Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife Elena, which was carried out on 25 December, 1989. The politicians listed in Zboralski's post are: Prof. Tomasz Grodzki – Speaker of the Senate on behalf of the Koalicja Obywatelska (Civic Coalition, a major coalition of liberal parties), Dr. Janusz Lewandowski – Member of the European Parliament from the list of the Koalicja Europejska (European Coalition), Dr. Michal Boni – former Minister of Administration and Digitization in the government of Donald Tusk, and Robert Biedron – a Wiosna

(Spring party) Member of the European Parliament and the founder of the Campaign Against Homophobia. Waldemar Zboralski is a legendary activist for the LGBT community. He was a victim of the militia action 'Hyacinth' carried out in 1985-1987. As a result of these events, in 1987 he founded the Warsaw Homosexual Movement, an organization of gays and lesbians, which gained international recognition and support from notable organisations, including Radio Free Europe. On 12 October, 2007 Zboralski and his partner legalized their civil partnership in England. They were the first Polish gay couple to do so. In 2015, Zboralski radically changed his worldview and became a supporter of extreme nationalism. On the website, he described (and condemned) his own biography as '*a shameful past in homosexual sin*'. He also published '*registers*' of rosary prayers, which were antisemitic in nature. Zboralski prayed, amongst other things, for: '*The defence of Poland against the Jewish-American 5th Partition of Poland*' (May-June 2018), '*The freeing of Poland from the occupation by Jews*' (July-August 2019), and '*The victory of Poles and removal of Jews from power in the elections to the Sejm [lower chamber of Polish Parliament] in 2019*' (August-September 2019).

CZESTOCHOWA. On 11 January at Jasna Gora Monastery, some participants of the so-called Patriotic Pilgrimage of Football Fans displayed scarves containing racist symbols. Hooligans of **Slask Wroclaw** and **Motor Lublin** wore typical red-and-white scarves stylised as the logo of international neo-Nazi organisation **Blood and Honour** (which takes its name from the motto of the **Hitler Youth – Hitlerjugend**). The scarves also contained the slogan '*In defence of the race and nation*', along with a Celtic cross (a racist white power symbol). Similar scarves were also displayed by hooligans of **Rakow Czestochowa**, this time containing just the slogan '*Blood and Honour*'. Another of the



hooligans carried a scarf with the slogan '*White patriots*' and a picture of a Celtic cross. The pilgrimage was also attended by members of far right organisation **Narodowe Podbeskidzie (National Podbeskidzie)**, who displayed one banner with the name of their group, and another containing a Celtic cross and the words '*Hate Antifa*'. The hooligans were demonstrating against the so-called Act 447 (The Justice for Holocaust Survivors Act was passed in 2018 in the US and is falsely portrayed by supporters of the far right as an order for Poland to pay the alleged 'Jewish claims'). They shouted, '*We need to expose the lies of Jewish organisations!*' The pilgrimage was organised and run by a priest, **Jaroslav Wasowicz**, who is closely associated with far-right football hooligans.

WARSAW. On 11 January, in an interview broadcast on **Polish Radio 24** (public broadcaster), Dr. **Jerzy Targalski**, a columnist of the '*Gazeta Polska*' newspaper and a lecturer at the Centre for Eastern European Studies at the University of Warsaw, made a bizarre statement about the COVID-

19 epidemic, which included racial overtones. He said: *'We have yet to see to what extent this epidemic will spread outside of China, as so far it is proven that the Chinese are more susceptible than representatives of the white race. [...] I think it won't spread'*. Then, on 28th March, in an interview for the radical-right **Frona.pl** website, Targalski was asked: *'Could this pandemic be a result of factional infighting in China?'* and he replied: *'When you know Communism, you know that there's no crime a Communist wouldn't stoop down to in order to take or preserve power'*. Targalski is a host of many television programmes on right-wing **TV Republika** and a co-author of the book, **Children of Officials** (2013), which presented modern Poland as ruled by a conspiracy of the post-Communist elite, often with Jewish background. This book was criticised for manipulation and antisemitic stereotypes.

WARSAW. On 11 January, in an interview published on YouTube on the **eMisjaTv** online TV channel, one of the leaders of the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) and Member of Parliament, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, praised Joseph Stalin by saying: *'The Russian people love Stalin... because Stalin saved them from the Bolsheviks. Stalin murdered all the Bolsheviks'*. He also added, *'but who did the Germans murder? Jews and Bolsheviks. So murdering Bolsheviks is very beneficial for Russia'*. Korwin-Mikke also expressed his support for the massacre on Tiananmen Square in China in 1989. At that time, Chinese students, supported by workers, had been demonstrating for several months, to demand the democratisation of public life, political reforms and to fight against corruption. On 4 June, these protests were brutally suppressed. Korwin-Mikke referred to these events as follows: *'When the students came to demonstrate at Tiananmen Square, he [Deng Xiaoping] took the tanks and ordered the students to be shot. If he hadn't done so, social democracy would have been introduced, just like it was in the European Union. He shot them in order to abolish democracy - I support that'*. Additionally, during the interview, Korwin-Mikke repeated a claim, known from his previous public speeches, that *'there is no proof that Hitler knew about the Holocaust... There is no such proof. This is an objective truth'*. In the interview, Korwin-Mikke also referred to a book by **David Irving**, a well-known Holocaust denier.

WARSAW. On 12 January, representatives of the far-right party **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (National Rebirth of Poland)** organized an antisemitic picket in front of the US Embassy. During the demonstration, they displayed a banner with a crossed out Star of David and a crossed out US flag. They also held the flag of **Hezbollah**.

WARSAW. On 15 January, at Chopin Airport, employees at the gate of the LOT flight to Kyiv, behaved offensively towards people with Chinese and Ukrainian passports. One passenger filed a complaint in which she described the situation as follows: *'In my opinion, these people were treated by the staff with disrespect and outright xenophobia - they were shouted at and not listened to when they tried to say something. When the Polish customer ahead of me reached the front of the queue, he heard the employee say «Finally, a normal passport!» I am outraged by the xenophobic behaviour of the staff'*. The passenger tried several times to find out whether the employees would suffer any consequences as a result of these incidents. In response, LOT declared that it would forward her *'comments'* to the external company responsible for staffing the departure gates.

WARSAW. On 15 January, the YouTube channel of **Monika Jaruzelska** (Warsaw Councillor and a lecturer at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities), named **Towarzyszka Panienska (Comrade Miss)**, published an hour-long interview with **Grzegorz Braun**, a Member of Parliament from the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party). It contained numerous instances of antisemitic and homophobic rhetoric. During the conversation, held at the villa of Wojciech Jaruzelski (1923-2014; army general and political leader who served as premier, chairman of the Council of State, and president during the final years of communist rule in Poland), Braun referred to modern Poland as ‘*a Russian-German condominium under Jewish fiduciary government*’, adding that ‘*the Jewish fiduciary government has, of course, its guarantor and protector in the American empire*’. He continued: ‘*Germans, Jews and sodomites must not re-write our history and instruct us how to behave in our own home*’. He showed his approval for using violence against pride protesters, announcing on behalf of the Konfederacja party: ‘*We will not be sending police to remove from the streets those who stand in the way of the regulars at the parade of deviants and offenders. We will be sending the police to arrest those offenders*’. He also called out that ‘*we don’t want perverts to teach our children tolerance in Polish schools*’. Jaruzelska did not react to the hateful content of Braun’s speech, on the contrary – she approved, nodded and prompted his arguments, developing the antisemitic and homophobic topics in the conversation. She also congratulated Konfederacja on their online activity. Monika Jaruzelska has been a member of the Warsaw city council since 2018 – the only representative chosen from the list of the Lewica (Left) – she brought up her activity in the council during the conversation. In 2020, she expressed her newly changed ideology, extending invitations to appear on her programme to multiple far-right activists and propagandists (including **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz** – a broadcaster associated for many years with **Radio Maryja** – chauvinist-Catholic media outlet, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** – a Member of Parliament representing the Konfederacja party, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** – a commentator for the right-wing **TV Republic**, and others).

BIALYSTOK. On 16 January (and in the following days), a large amount of extremely nationalist insults and threats appeared on the internet addressed to Member of the European Parliament, Tomasz Frankowski. Frankowski who represents the Platforma Obywatelska (Civic Platform, the main liberal, opposition party), is also a former member of the Polish national football team. On that day, the European Parliament adopted a resolution ‘*on the rule of law in Poland and Hungary*’ (the document called for the two Member States, inter alia, to respect EU values and the ‘*principle of the primacy of European Union law*’). Frankowski voted in favour of this resolution. Reacting to this decision, many people published offensive comments questioning his nationality and identity, and posted threats of violence and death. Selected examples of such comments are: ‘*You treacherous whore, you’ll never be Polish*’, ‘*Frankowski is only a traitor to the Polish Nation [...]. Get out of Poland to your EU and complain about Poland there, but do it as a German or a European*’, ‘*There were times when you would have had your head shaved, you Volksdeutsche... yuck...*’, ‘*Fans will greet you as a traitor, you little salesman. I loathe you!*’ and finally ‘*In the second half of the 18th century such people were hung*’. Frankowski was also called ‘*a scab*’ (‘*parch*’ in Polish, a contemptuous term for Jews used in Poland since at least the nineteenth century).

WARSAW. On 20 January, the extreme-right bi-weekly magazine ‘**Najwyższy Czas!**’ (‘**High**

Time!, no. 5-6) published an article by **Marian Miszalski** entitled *'In the Pre-partition Atmosphere'*, (referring to the partition of Poland by neighbouring states in the 18th century) in which he 'accused' the Speaker of the Senate and member of the Platforma Obywatelska (Civic Platform, the main liberal, opposition party), Prof. Tomasz Grodzki of having Jewish roots. Miszalski said *'The very name Grodzki belongs to this suspicious group of names (Suwalski, Warszawski, Mazowiecki, Sandomierski, Wojewodzki, Gromadzki etc.) which Jews adopted especially in Stalinist times – to hide their Jewish origin from Poles and other people'*. He added: *'The facial characteristics of the new Senate Speaker and his lively gestures might indicate that he is of Jewish or semi-Jewish descent'*. In his text, Miszalski also presented a fanatical vision of a *'Russian-German-Jewish conspiracy'* with its aim of a partition of Poland. He postulated: *'In the face of a tripartite plot against Poland, the Polish defence should focus on its WEAKEST link: the JEWISH FACTOR', which would result in lowering the importance of diplomatic relations with Israel to the level of consulates, abolishing the office of the representative of the Polish government for interactions with the Jewish diaspora, and limiting 'distributions of money to Jewish institutions in Poland or maintaining them from the state budget'*. In a press interview in daily *'Gazeta Wyborcza'*, Mr Grodzki criticised Miszalski's article and added: *'There was no Jewish blood in my family'*.

WARSAW. On 21 January, in Biedronka, a supermarket chain, on Brygada Poscigowa Street, a 13-year-old Ukrainian girl was falsely accused of theft and subjected to offensive remarks by a security guard. The man said that he *'hated Ukrainians'*, threatened to beat her up and called her a number of vulgar names. In addition, he took a photo of her without her consent stating that he would post it on the internet. The police were called. According to the girl's father, the officers treated her shamefully. They were said to put the girl in handcuffs and once she was in the police car they threatened to take her to a *'special department and show her how things worked there'*. On 19 February 2020 the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Warszawa-Praga Poludnie refused to investigate an allegation of the abuse of powers by police officers. Furthermore, on 30 May 2020 the same Public Prosecutor's Office discontinued the investigation into the complaints of incitement to hatred and directing threats of violence on account of her nationality against a 13-year-old Ukrainian girl.

SOPOT. On 23 January, one of the city's residents reported on social media that the Jewish cemetery had been desecrated. Someone had put wooden crosses on the headstones, and hung clothes on some of the graves. Rubbish and glass was found all over the neglected cemetery. The president of the city was notified of the incident. He condemned the devastation and visited the cemetery. There has been no announcement as to whether the historic cemetery has been cleaned up.

WARSAW. On 23 January, in the Lower House of the Polish Parliament (Sejm), during a debate on the draft of a budget-related law, **Konfederacja (Confederation – a far right party)** Member of Parliament **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** stated that *'taxes were much lower under Hitler'* and added, addressing the parliamentarians, *'Shame on you, that you oppress Poles more than national socialism'*.

GNIEZNO. On the night of 26/27 January, at the cemetery on Witkowska Street, *'unknown*

perpetrators' devastated the mausoleum of Soviet soldiers. On the monument located in the military quarters, they painted the slogans: 'Scum', and 'Death to the enemies of the motherland' (a slogan nowadays used by the extreme nationalists as an incentive for ideological aggression), as well as a drawing of the gallows. On 30 January, city officials said the graffiti had been removed. 411 Soviet soldiers are buried at the Gniezno cemetery.

WARSAW. On 27 January, on the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz, candidate for President of the Republic of Poland and a Member of Parliament for the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation party)**, **Krzysztof Bosak**, made offensive statements on **Polsat News** about the Holocaust survivor Mr. Marian Turski, a former prisoner of Auschwitz-Birkenau and KL Buchenwald. During the international celebrations in Oswiecim, Mr. Turski gave a speech in which he stated inter alia: *'Do not be indifferent when a minority is discriminated against, because while the essence of democracy is that the majority rules, democracy also means that minority rights must at the same time be protected'*. His moving message was widely commented on in the domestic and foreign media. Bosak referred to Turski's words, in the television program **'Polityka na ostro' ('Spicy politics')**, stating that *'Mr. Turski issues political manifestos'* and therefore *'it is difficult to say that the celebrations were well organized'*. He also added: *'The floor was given to a man who decided to use this anniversary to attack the government and the parliament'*, and later said the speech by M. Turski was *'typical left wing rhetoric'*. The Konfederacja MP accused the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum of *'pursuing a policy aimed at pleasing international Jewish circles, rather than taking care of the interests of the Polish nation'*.

A lot of aggressive and offensive comments directed at Marian Turski also appeared on the internet. Here are a few examples: *'Who allows the surviving leftist-Jews to speak?'*, *'Pity he didn't leave through the chimneys'*, *'A Jew. A slippery, unfriendly nation, with no empathy. The Jews are still hated all over Europe. Only political correctness protects them from another Crystal Night [i.e. an anti-Jewish pogrom in 1938]'*, *'Jude-commune'*, *'Why do Jews hate Poles? They had no heroes, they sent their families to the gas themselves'*, *'Stop funding this museum; if [Jews] want to have it, they should be charged rent for the lease of the land and buildings'* (comments published on the forum **wpolityce.pl**), *'Holocaust and holokaust, as if we did not have our own word for the German, Russian, Ukrainian, as well as Jewish-Bolsheviks' barbarism'* (**DoRzeczy.pl**) and *'The Jewish-Communist demonstration by Turski in Auschwitz, while marginalizing the martyrdom of the Polish nation, of the Polish Poles, heralds a time of escalating Jewish anti-Polishness'* (Twitter). On 30 January, 2020 the editors of the *'Polityka'* (weekly opinion magazine) took the initiative to submit the candidacy of Marian Turski for the Nobel Peace Prize. The nomination with words of support was signed, amongst others, by Prof. Rafal Pankowski, the co-founder of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association.

POLAND. On 28 January, Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) competitor **Joanna Jedrzejczyk** posted a picture on Instagram that suggested her Chinese opponent Weili Zhang was a coronavirus threat. On the poster advertising their fight (it was planned for the 7 March in Las Vegas), both their pictures were visible, however, Jedrzejczyk was wearing a gas mask that was reportedly there to protect her from the virus. The image also displayed emojis that mocked Zhang. Zhang criticised Jedrzejczyk's behaviour and addressed her on social media: *'Making jokes about a tragedy like this*

shows lack of character. People are dying, someone's father, mother, child. If you have something against me, say it, but don't joke about what is happening here [in China – translator's note]. I wish you good health and see you on 7 March'.

GDANSK. On 30 January, within the grounds of the Academy of Physical Education and Sport three Polish students behaved offensively and aggressively toward Chinese students, accusing them of spreading the coronavirus. *'My friends and I were going to class. Three boys passed by and I noticed that they had their noses covered. I told them they didn't have to do this because we were not sick. One of them, for no reason, showed us the middle finger and began to challenge us with very vulgar words'*, reported one of the female students who was targeted. The university authorities were informed about the case.

WARSAW. On 30 January, speaking on Radio RMF FM, during a conversation about COVID-19, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, **Jaroslav Pinkas** stated that *'in Poland there is no such virus. Therefore, the endangerment is close to zero'*, and next he associated that problem exclusively with national origin. When asked by journalist, Marcin Zaborski: *'So, if I run a temperature of thirty-eight degrees, have a cough and feel like I'm choking, but I have not visited China, should I not raise the alarm?'*. Pinkas answered: *'You should not raise any alarm. Please analyse where you were and if indeed there were any Chinese people in your surroundings. [...] Did you speak to a Chinese woman or some other Chinese citizen, who had been to China within the last two weeks? If you are not aware of any such incidents, then you are absolutely safe'*. Based on the words of Pinkas, one can assume that COVID-19 can be spread solely by the Chinese and, for instance, Polish tourists coming back from abroad, or that citizens of other countries are not carriers of the disease. This type of statement from the Chief Sanitary Inspector could have contributed to raising the risk of contracting the virus in Poland.

STARACHOWICE / WROCLAW. On 31 January, the Internal Security Agency searched three premises in these two cities, including a private apartment and a warehouse space, in which significant amounts of materials *'relating to the fascist state system and containing fascist symbolism'* were found and secured. The materials were intended for transportation out of Poland and distribution abroad. The Internal Security Agency (ABW) undertook these activities as part of the preliminary proceedings relating to public propagation of fascism and hate speech, which was initiated on 27 January by the Branch Office in Radom of the ABW Delegation in Lublin under the supervision of the Kielce-East District Public Prosecutor's Office.

FEBRUARY 2020

WROCLAW. At the beginning of February, at the intersection of Jednosci Narodowej Street and Drobnera Street, a gay couple was attacked by three men, who shouted *'F*ck faggots!'* The attackers resorted to physical violence, kicking one of the men in the back. They also directed death threats towards the victims: *'The next time we see you here, we will kill you'*. The attacked men managed to call the police, and then, a short while later, stopped a passing police patrol. However, the officers refused to act. *'I told the policemen what was going on. I asked for an intervention because the attackers were still around. The officers replied «But you have already called the police, so you have*

to wait for that patrol, because this is not our area». Then they left us and drove away, even though I said that they still had a chance to apprehend the attackers', reported one of the men. Krzysztof Smiszek, a Member of Parliament from the Lewica (Left party), intervened in the matter of the policemen's behaviour. In a letter to the commander of the city police in Wrocław, he said: *'Homophobia and prejudices against LGBT people are a serious problem in our country. Unfortunately, physical and mental attacks are commonplace [...]. The appropriate attitude of the officers, as well as a quick reaction to each case of intolerance, are the duties of the public authorities'*.

POLAND. In February and in successive months, social media in Poland carried a large number of homophobic comments and conspiracy theories pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some examples of posts observed on Twitter:

- *'F*ck you in the ass, you faggots, that virus is your fault'*
- *'Faggots and their faggotry – as a consequence – the AIDS disease. Eating rats, cats, dogs, bats etc. – as a consequence CORONAVIRUS. [...] In other words, a history of pathology'*
- *'Faggots mean diseases, who knows if coronavirus is not another of your inventions!!!'*
- *'Authentic F*cking moron and son-of-a-bitch. Maybe Coronavirus will catch up with him, Lesbians and faggots will help'* (directed towards the Mayor of Poznan, Jacek Jaskowiak)
- *'Today I read that those most vulnerable to infection by coronavirus are faggots and lesbians'*
- *'380 people were infected by coronavirus in Belgium during mass group sex [this is an example of fake news, nothing of the sort has been documented – translator's note]. In connection with that we demand the penalisation of homosexuality and arrest of all sexual perverts from LGBT in Poland! Deviants constitute a great epidemiological danger!'* (these words were posted on the profile of the extreme rightist group, **Narodowy Lublin**)
- *'The deviants chickened out because they have guilty consciences. They intuitively feel that coronavirus may punish them'*
- *'Hey you, Rabiej, who tells them to agree with perverts like you? It's because of you lot that we have this coronavirus, isn't it?'* (addressed to Pawel Rabiej, Deputy Mayor of Warsaw, who is openly gay)
- *'Gender is even more dangerous than coronavirus. The virus attacks children gently. Gender ideology has no pity on them and attacks them with its complete perverted ruthlessness. It dazzles out of everywhere: cinemas, newspapers, television, the internet. The child need not touch it. Even eye contact is infectious'*
- *'There are various threats, e.g. civilisational: the war in Syria and the one in Ukraine, gender ideology, danger stemming from the stupidity of the opposition. With such a background, coronavirus is only one of many threats...'* (this post comes from the account of user, **Marlena-Malina #Duda2020**; she also posted the following phrase as her tagline: *'I am against the rainbow plague! This zone is free of LGBT and other perversions'*).

BELCHATOW. The February issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice'* (*'It's Us Fans'*) published pictures of flags which had been displayed in stadiums between 2000-2019 and taken as trophies by hooligan groups. These banners are often displayed upside down on the stands of the supporters who have taken them, to show contempt. Some included racist symbols: a banner with a Celtic cross (indicating the so-called supremacy of the white race) belonging to the hooligans

of **Unia Oswiecim**; a banner of **Gryf Slupsk** was stylised to resemble a **Confederate** flag (which was used during the American Civil War by the southern states fighting to maintain slavery and is now considered a symbol of racial discrimination); banners of **Jarota Jarocin** depicted a white clenched fist (a symbol of white power); a banner of **Lech Poznan** with the slogan '*Legion Pila. Blood of Our Race*' (the title of a song by neo-Nazi band **Konkwista 88**, with the following lyrics, '*For the blood of our race / our honour and National Socialism / we will fight / until the end of our days*'), along with two banners of **Cartusia Kartuzy** and **Unia Hrubieszow** containing a Sig rune, which is popular among neo-Nazis (a single rune was used on **Hitler Youth - Hitlerjugend** uniforms, while a double one was the symbol of the **SS**).

WARSAW. On 2 February, on Marszalkowska Street, a supplier of the Telepizza chain shouted homophobic insults at two men who tried to inform him about the dangerous behaviour of another employee of the company who had driven a company motorbike on the pavement. '*We asked to speak to someone managing this outlet. During a brief exchange, an extremely aggressive person called us «faggot», «wanker» and a number of other things, declaring what should be done «with people like [us]». This was done while the other employees remained totally passive*' – said one of the injured men. In response to critical comments from internet users, an apology was published on Telepizza's website and it was announced that the man in question would be punished with an official reprimand and face financial consequences.

CHELM. On 6 February, the local internet portal Virtual Chelm published an article on racist slogans that have been appearing on buildings, bus stops and other premises throughout the town for several months. Among other things, on Kolejowa Street, someone had placed the inscription '*Love your race!*' on a wall, along with symbols of the Celtic cross (a symbol of the so-called '*white power*') and the website address of the far-right group **Autonomiczni Nacjonalisci (Autonomous Nationalists)**. Throughout the city, stickers appeared, showing the symbol of the so-called black sun, and signed by this organisation. The symbol was used during World War II by the **SS**, and today it is used by neo-Nazi circles. The website of the Chelm portal also published information that someone had painted a racist slogan on the shelter of a bus stop located by the Jewish cemetery.

POZNAN. On 8 February during a top-flight football match between Lech Poznan and **Rakow Czestochowa**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner saying '*Janusz Walus is our hero*'. **Janusz Walus** migrated to South Africa in 1993, where he murdered Chris Hani, an anti-apartheid leader. Walus was sentenced to life for the crime [on parole since December 2022 – translator's note]. In recent years, far-right groups in Poland have made Walus a hero and praised the racially motivated murder he committed.

WARSAW. On 8 February, some participants of the **Solidarna Polska (United Poland)** party convention at the Palladium theatre chanted '*No pedalling*' ('*pedal*' is a vulgar Polish term for a gay man). It was an expression of support for the statements of the vice-president of the party and Member of the European Parliament **Beata Kempa**. In her speech she called Krzysztof Smiszek, a Member of Parliament representing the left-wing Wiosna (Spring party), '*a candidate for the first lady*'. Mr. Smiszek is in a relationship with Member of European Parliament Robert Biedron, who

was a presidential candidate from the Lewica (Left party).

WARSAW. On the night of 8/ 9 February, at the bus stop near Rotunda, a Christian Israeli of Palestinian origin, doing his PhD at the University of Warsaw, was beaten up by a young man. The attacker punched the young student in the face and broke his nose. The victim was hospitalised. He informed the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association about the incident and stated that the attack was an act of racism.

TORUN. On 9 February, several men attacked four citizens of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus and an accompanying Pole from the Kresy (Eastern Borderlands) region at the intersection of Podmurna Street and Teatralny Square. One of the injured men reported: *'Our colleague, who is a repatriated Pole, has a fractured skull [...]. We were attacked to the sound of slogans such as «Poland for Poles» and «*uck the Ukrainians». I should add that only two out of five of us were Ukrainians. The most frightening thing for me was the passive attitude of people around us, who did not react and passed by indifferently. The men managed to attack us, walk away and come back again, throwing punches at us'*. Wojciech Chrostowski from the Municipal Police Headquarters in Torun said: *'The findings so far indicate that the incident happened because of our nationality'*. He also added that one of the attackers (**Oskar S.**) was questioned *'as a juvenile offender'* and his case would go to a family court. On 3 January 2022, the Regional Court in Torun passed judgments on the three remaining perpetrators of the assault. Convicted of an assault carried out on grounds of nationality, they were sentenced to absolute terms of imprisonment: **Marek N.** to one year and two months of imprisonment (he had acted while on conditional release), **Kamil G.** to one year, and **Brajan B.** to six months. **Szymon L.**, who had been hiding from the police, was tried separately. After he had been detained the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Torun Centre-West charged him with participating in a group assault of the hooligan type (a hooligan offence is an offence consisting of an intentional attack on health, freedom, honour or bodily integrity where the perpetrator acts publicly for an obviously trivial reason, thus showing gross disregard for legal order), on grounds of the victim's nationality and whilst on conditional release. On 2 March, the Regional Court in Torun sentenced him to a year of absolute imprisonment.

LODZ. On 10 February, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association received a report about a racist symbol painted on a local Catholic primary school. Hooligans of **LKS Lodz** had painted the name of their club, together with a Celtic cross a symbol of white power.

TYCHY. On 10 February, the media reported that **Piotr M.**, a resident of Tychy, posted death threats on the internet directed at a Ukrainian family looking for a flat to rent in the city. They posted information about their requirement on an advertising portal under which Piotr M. entered the following comment: *'Get them out of here, back to their own place or I'll buy a machete and treat them to a Silesian blood land just like the one they created in Volhynia'*. The prosecutor's office was notified about the case, but there has been no public announcement of any investigation or its results.

WROCLAW. On 10 February, *'Gazeta Wroclawska'* daily once again published an article that encouraged resentment toward the Roma community. It was entitled *'A Young Gypsy Dreaming of a Driving License Rams Five Cars'*, referring to negative stereotypes about Roma people. Commenting on the article, internet users posted many xenophobic and vulgar comments, among them: *'A gypsy is and always will be a thief'*, *'The problem is that in these «Roma» families, hardly anyone can read and write so how can they pass a driving test?'* *'Thieving lazy semen...'* or *'F*ck the damn bastards'*. For several years, *'Gazeta Wroclawska'* has been publishing articles, which are offensive to people of other nationalities. These people are often depicted as perpetrators of crimes, and their alleged tendency to commit such acts is related to their ethnic origin, which is often revealed in a sensationalist manner in the titles of the articles. Examples of the titles of texts directed against Ukrainians are: *'A drunken Ukrainian caused an accident near Dlugoleka. Two people injured'*, *'Accident at a roundabout; a Ukrainian pushed a woman on to a traffic sign doing nearly 150 km / h across the Millennium Bridge in a SUV. The Ukrainian was hurrying to a meeting'*. In November 2019, the Office of the Ombudsman published a report in which *'Gazeta Wroclawska'* was cited, in the context of the responsibility of local media for *'stirring up a spiral of negative emotions toward migrants or national minorities'*. As long ago as July 2014, the editor-in-chief **Arkadiusz Franas** received an open letter signed by theatre directors, writers, artists and actors in connection with a series of anti-Roma articles published in his newspaper. The signatories emphasised: *'For some reason you want to stir up the spiral of hatred towards Gypsies in Wroclaw. Reading an extensive collection of aggressive and hateful comments from your articles, it is clear that your approach is successful [...] Please explain why «Gazeta Wroclawska» under your leadership needs to provoke xenophobia and racism'*.

WARSAW. On 11 February, the capital's media reported that an antisemitic drawing had been placed on the wall of a tenement house on Narbutta Street. The painting evoked associations with Nazi propaganda: it showed a characteristic, caricatured image of a Jew with a hooked nose, beard and hat. The tenement house was managed by the Domus-Petrus company. A representative of the company announced in a media conversation on 11 February, that the drawing would be removed, but only during the renovation of the building *'in a few, or maybe in a dozen or so months'*. The painting has been on the wall since the autumn of 2019.

WARSAW. On 15 February, the driver of an Uber taxi asked two women who had placed an order for his services about their nationality. They were Vietnamese students of Collegium Civitas university in Warsaw. One of them stated: *'The driver said that if we were of Chinese origin, he would not allow us to get in his car'*.

KALISZ. On 16 February, during a mass celebrated in the church of the Parish of Divine Providence on Polna Street, the vicar made homophobic statements. He used the word *'faggot'* when referring to the candidate for President of the Republic of Poland and Member of the European Parliament, Robert Biedron. He also used the term *'rainbow plague'* in his sermon to describe people from the LGBT community. Several people left the church in protest against his use of these words. The provincial secretary of the Orionine fathers made a statement informing the media that the vicar had been removed from the parish and transferred to another town.

WROCLAW. On 16 February, on the Facebook profile of Café Rownik, an appeal to customers was published, asking them to stop discriminating against its employees. The café employs people with autism, Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities. It is situated on Jednosci Narodowej Street and was established in 2018 as a workplace for over a dozen people. The initiator of the integration cafe project, Prof. Malgorzata Mlynarska, explained that, *'It's therapy through work. Thanks to this, our staff have become independent, are able to come to work by public transport on their own, and can discuss many general social issues with our guests'*. Professor Mlynarska, who is an expert in the field, has revealed some of the negative situations experienced by members of her team: *'Unfortunately, we have often heard that we should provide able-bodied personnel because the customers feel uncomfortable with Down syndrome people. [...] At other times, guests enter the premises and, after seeing people with Down syndrome, immediately leave. Is it too difficult for people to look at those with Down syndrome?'* Professor Mlynarska also reported that some customers have asked, *'Is it possible to get infected with Down syndrome?'* In another situation she described, *'A couple with a small child came in and first complained that our waiter approached them too soon, because they had not yet had time to decide what to order. Then, when one of the customers asked him if we had cakes, the waiter left without saying a word. He had actually run to the kitchen to ask other members of staff what kind of cakes he could offer them. However, when he returned to the table the customer had decided that she no longer wanted a cake. The customer later wrote on the Café Rownik's internet page later that the service there is «tragic», and that she would not recommend this place to anyone. Nor would she ever go back there'*. The appeal from Café Rownik's founders for kindness toward their employees has met with a positive response from internet users.

KWIDZYN. On 20 February, the chairman of the club of councilors of the **Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc (Law and Justice governing party)**, **Radoslaw Smejliis**, posted a homophobic comment relating to Robert Biedron (Member of the European Parliament, candidate for President of the Republic of Poland and the founder of the Campaign Against Homophobia), on Facebook. During an online discussion, Smejliis wrote *'Whom do the contemporary communists support for the post of president? In the old days, the militia would have come and taken the man to the forest and there with the use of white batons they would have explained to him what moral correctness is. As it is, Robert is running for president of the Republic of Poland'*.

WARSAW. On 22 February, during the top-flight match between **Legia Warszawa** and Jagiellonia Bialystok, local hooligans displayed a banner containing a stylised swastika with bended arms. This is one of their oldest flags with Nazi content, and has been used by Legia hooligans for more than ten years. Within the 'Let's Kick Racism Out of the Stadiums' campaign the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association documented this banner as early as 2005, when it was used in a match between Legia Warszawa and Arka Gdynia.

WARSAW. On 22 February, in an interview with **Stanislaw Krajski** broadcast on the **wRealu24 YouTube** channel (internet TV), Archbishop ad personam **Jan Pawel Lenga** made the following comment: *'Christ is being dethroned not only as a man, but also as God. Everything is being preached in his place – the Protestant religion, Islam, Judaism, Pachamama, idolatrous ceremonies in the Vatican [...] and all other -isms that have nothing in common with the teachings of Christ'*. His words

were in response to the decision of Wieslaw Mering, the Bishop of Wloclawek, who announced on 20 February that Lenga was to refrain from preaching and celebrating masses. Lenga had previously made controversial statements in which he undermined the authority of Pope Francis. He has also been banned from speaking to the media. Lenga is a retired bishop of Karaganda in Kazakhstan, who has resided in the Marian Fathers' monastery in Lichen Stary in the diocese of Wloclawek since 2011.

HAJNOWKA. On 23 February, members of the far-right groups: **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)**, **Mlodziez Wszepolska (All-Polish Youth)**, **Narodowa Hajnowka (National Hajnowka)** and hooligans from **Jagiellonia Bialystok** commemorated Captain **Romuald 'Bury' Rajs**, the head of a partisan unit responsible for the death of 79 Orthodox Belarusians, including women and children in 1946. The demonstrators chanted slogans such as, *'Bury, our hero'*. They also commemorated **Major Zygmunt 'Lupaszko' Szendzielarz**, who led his people to commit the murders of Lithuanian and Belarusian civilians in 1944. The demonstrators also displayed banners with (and chanted) the slogan *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'* (used nowadays to incite aggression on ideological grounds). The following was posted on a Facebook group used for planning the event, which sounded like a veiled threat: *'[In Hajnowka, a town in eastern Poland], many people call themselves the Ruthenians and consider that land occupied. Hajnowka belongs to the Polish state. [...] Everything has a beginning and an end. Now it's time for us, for people determined to end Communism in Poland. Step by step. To topple this structure, each one of us is necessary'*. A few days before the march, local councillors adopted a resolution in which they protested, *'on their own behalf and on behalf of the residents of Hajnowka and families of the victims of the tragic events which took place in 1945/1946, against the glorification of «Bury», who murdered many civilians living in the Hajnowka and Bielsko Podlaskie areas'*.

LODZ. On 24 February, the employees of a playroom located in the Port Lodz Shopping Centre on Pabianicka Street, refused entry to a seven-year-old girl in a wheelchair. In a statement to the media, the girl's mother said, *'When our turn came, one of the employees said that we could not enter because they had no one who could take care of a disabled child. I offered to go in with my daughter, but they would not consent to this either. [...] I asked to speak with the manager. She said a wheelchair was not allowed to enter the hall. My child cannot function without her wheelchair'*. The girl's mother also added, *'As the mother of a disabled child, I have been refused admission and sent away from so many places, so many times that maybe I should just get used to it. But I cannot accept that my daughter has to suffer like this. [...] She attends kindergarten together with healthy children and has no problem there whatsoever. Sometimes all that is needed is a little bit of goodwill'*. An apology was published on the social profile of the Port of Lodz Centre, along with a commitment to adapt the playroom to the needs of children with disabilities.

BIALYSTOK. On 25 February, local media reported that someone had destroyed an anti-racist mural on one of the tenement houses on Pilsudski Avenue. The *'unknown perpetrator'* crossed out a quote with the words of John Paul II, *'Racism is a denial of the deepest identity of a human being'*, and painted a Celtic cross (a sign used in many countries by fascist organizations, symbolizing so-called *'white power'*). The mural had also previously been destroyed in 2017, when the word *'racism'*

in the quote was changed to read 'Jew', giving the inscription an antisemitic overtone.

KRAKOW. On 25 February, in an interview with the Interia website about their game on 3 March with Cracovia, the president of **Wisła Krakow**, Piotr Obidzinski, said: *'We have lived through something like this before. It is a bit like the ultimatum on Gdansk in 1939'*, making a comparison between the demands made by one football club to another, to the ultimatum **Adolf Hitler** made for Poland in August 1939. At that time, the Nazis demanded, inter alia, that the Free City of Gdansk be incorporated into the Third Reich, the Pomerania region be excluded from Poland and a referendum regarding the question of nationality be held in the region. Wisła Krakow has displayed anti-Jewish attitudes dating back to the beginning of its history in the early 20th century, which has been documented in Dr. Maciej Kozłowski's book *'Narod Wybrany – Cracovia Pany'* (*'The Chosen Nation – Cracovia Rules'*), which was published by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association in 2015.

WARSAW. On 26 February, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, a Member of Parliament representing the **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) posted on his Twitter account the following about the coronavirus epidemic: *'A virus killing 10% of those infected is not any «biological weapon», but a means of improving the genetic base of the nation and humankind (because the weakest and those with the least foresight die)!!'* This was his reaction to the words of the Director of the Bielanski Hospital in Warsaw, who, in a statement to the daily *Rzeczpospolita* newspaper, criticised the state of readiness of the Polish health service at the time of the epidemic, and highlighted the gravity of the situation. Korwin-Mikke repeated his theory about the alleged positive aspects of coronavirus in other statements to the media, including to the daily tabloid newspaper, *'Fakt'* (February 26, 2020): *'Natural selection is the motor driving human development, which is known by anyone who has studied Darwin. Thanks to the fact that the weakest die, the quality of the remaining nation or community is improved'*. On 27th February, on the television programme **'Punkt widzenia'**, broadcast by **Polsat News**, Korwin-Mikke voiced similar claims, combining them with an antisemitic conspiracy theory: *'Jews are now a power because they have experienced pogroms. As a result of the pogroms, the strongest, the most able Jews survived – this is a warning to anti-Semites. [...] And there even exist such theories that rabbis intentionally provoked pogroms, especially in order for Jews to survive such pogroms, and then there is a natural selection among Jews'*. Korwin-Mikke also spoke out on the subject of the COVID-19 pandemic in many countries, once more stating that this illness will *'cause an enhancement of the genetic pool'*.

KALISZ. On 27 February during a City Council session, where a draft bill on the *'Kalisz without hatred'* declaration was discussed, city councillor **Elzbieta Debska** from the **Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice)** governing party), with a medical background, made a homophobic statement. When voicing her disapproval of the draft bill, which condemned any form of hate crimes in the city, she claimed: *'When it comes to sexual orientation, then it's obvious these are nature's defects and we accept them. They have always existed, they still exist and they will continue to exist'*. The council voted against the declaration being proceeded at this council session with majority voting.

WARSAW. On 28 February, in a wedding dress salon on John Paul II Avenue, two sales assistants openly discriminated against two female customers of Indonesian origin. They refused service to the customers based on their ethnic background. The sales assistants, totally without reason, concluded that the Asian women may infect them with COVID-19. The owner of the salon was called to the scene and he confirmed that the sales assistants would not serve customers from Indonesia. He allegedly insisted that both customers leave the store.

TORUN. On 29 February during the third division football match between **Elana Torun** and Gornik Lezna, local hooligans displayed a banner which called for violence against *'ideological enemies'*. It depicted a symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with the slogan *'Good night left side'*, both of which are commonly used by neo-fascists. The banner also included two Celtic crosses, a racist 'white power' symbol.

MARCH 2020

WOLKA KOSOWSKA. In March, xenophobic comments appeared on the internet, accusing people living in Wolka Kosowska, a community near Warsaw, of spreading the coronavirus epidemic. Some of the comments also incited violence against them. Wolka Kosowska is home to a well-known trading centre with vendors who came from many countries, primarily from Vietnam. In actual fact, this multicultural community was the first in Poland to organise a system of special sanitary and warning procedures around COVID-19 many weeks before the pandemic reached Poland. One Polish Twitter user wrote: *'Wolka Kosowska should be bombed and ploughed over, it has done so much harm, I think that it is protected by former members of WSI [military counterintelligence-translator's note] – so far it is doing well and the fines are too low'*. Another Twitter user addressed **Dominik Tarczynski**, a Member of European Parliament representing the **Law and Justice** party with the following appeal: *'Mr. Representative, I as someone who voted for you, want to ask you whether a place like Wolka Kosowska has been ploughed over or surrounded by a sanitary cordon? It is from places such as this that the plague began in Europe'*. Tarczynski himself has, in recent years, voiced numerous comments of a xenophobic nature, aimed at migrants. For example, on 16 April, he rebuked the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi on Twitter, that two months previously she had encouraged visits to New York's Chinatown. Earlier, on 11 March, he criticised Alexandra Cortasio-Cortez, a member of the House of Representatives from New York, for offering support to Chinese and Asian restaurants.

BYDGOSZCZ. On 1 March, participants of a march organised by the extreme nationalist group **Bydgoscy Patrioci (Bydgoszcz Patriots)** displayed a huge banner in support of **Janusz Walus**, a Polish immigrant sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa for a racist murder. In 1993, Walus murdered the black anti-apartheid politician Chris Hani. Despite Walus' conviction, he has never shown remorse for the crime. For several years, far-right circles in Poland have fostered a cult of Walus and praised his actions. The participants of the march also carried a banner containing the words, *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'* (in contemporary context it is used by extreme nationalists to call for ideologically motivated violence). They also carried a flag commemorating Capt. **Romuald 'Bury' Rajs**, who commanded a branch of the **National Military Union**, the

organisation responsible for committing genocide against the Orthodox Belarusian population of Podlasie in 1946. The demonstration was attended by representatives of the far-right organizations: **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)** and **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)**, football hooligans associated with local club **Zawisza Bydgoszcz**, Bydgoszcz City Councillor **Jerzy Mickus** (on behalf of the **Law and Justice** party), and a board member of the **Zawisza Football Association**.

WROCLAW. On 1 March, during mass in the St. Michael Archangel church on Boleslaw Prus Street, Fr. **Leonard Wilczynski**, belonging to the Salesian order, stated in his homily that the COVID-19 pandemic is *'God's punishment for living in the sin of homosexuality'*. He also added that the Chinese were *'dirty'* and *'eat bats and dead fetuses'*. The public has not been informed whether the priest has faced any kind of consequences from church authorities in connection with this statement.

GDANSK. On 4 March, during a top-flight football match between **Lechia Gdansk** and Legia Warszawa, local hooligans displayed a flag in support of **Janusz Walus**, who was serving a life sentence in South Africa for the murder in 1993 of anti-apartheid leader Chris Hani [on parole since December 2022 – translator's note]. Lechia hooligans also displayed a banner containing a Celtic cross (racist symbol).

WARSAW. On 5 March, **Adam Gmurczyk**, the long-time leader of the extreme nationalist group, **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (National Rebirth of Poland)** and editor of the antisemitic periodical, **Szczerbiec** (which shares its name with a historical mediaeval sword), published an image endorsing the use of the fascist salute on his Twitter profile. He encouraged his readers to greet one another using the *'Roman salute'* gesture (which involves raising one's hand in an identical manner to the infamous Nazi greeting). Gmurczyk and his group have been using every occasion for many years to spread ideology and symbols close to those of fascism, in this case using the COVID-19 pandemic as a pretext.

KATOWICE. On 6 March, in the city centre, near the intersection of Kopernika and Kosciuszki streets, four men attacked an Egyptian citizen. When the attack took place, the victim was with his female Polish partner, who reported, *'My partner was in the car speaking Arabic on the phone to his mother. Four men approached our car and started banging on it. When he got out of the car he was attacked by one of them from behind, then others joined in'*. As a result of the attack, the Egyptian suffered injuries to his nose and head. Three of the four attackers were arrested by the police and charged with inflicting bodily harm. At the request of the North Katowice District Public Prosecutor's Office, the court detained the suspects for three months.

WARSAW. On 6 March on Foksal Street, a group of young men and women shouted the word *'coronavirus'* in a sneering manner at three female students of Collegium Civitas university, all of whom were Vietnamese. Xenophobia manifested itself in this incident by attributing responsibility for the COVID-19 pandemic to all people of Asian origin. No bystanders reacted to the aggressive shouting.

WARSAW. On 6 March, a passenger on a train from Kolobrzeg to Krakow summoned health services because she was of the opinion that another traveller constituted a threat. She identified the Asiatic appearance of her fellow traveller as the primary source of her concern. Writer, Irek Grin, travelling on the same train noted: *'A certain lady called the police and health services because she decided in her own mind that a man of Asian features had coronavirus'*. The train was delayed for several hours at the Central Station in Warsaw, all cars were locked, passengers had their identification checked by the police and railway security officers with dogs. The incident transpired to be a false alarm, stemming from fear around COVID-19 associated with people of Asian origin. Joanna Narozniak, spokesperson of the office of the Sanitary Inspector for the Mazovian Voivodship informed the press that the passenger who was the source of the woman's concern *'does not meet the clinical and epidemiological criteria which would qualify him to be in one of the risk groups'*. She added that epidemiological procedures concerning the man had been completed.

GLOGOW. On 7 March, during the second division football match between Chrobry Glogow and GKS Tychy, one supporter displayed a scarf containing the racist slogan *'White power'* and a Celtic cross. (The man was a hooligan associated with another Polish football club, **Gornik Walbrzych**, whose fans have a friendly relationship with those of GKS Tychy). The scarf included a symbol stylised to resemble the so-called Totenkopf, which was used by the **SS** in concentration camps during World War II. The hooligans also displayed a sticker on their drums containing a homophobic and pornographic logo along with the slogan *'No faggotry'*.

BELCHATOW. On 8 March, during a top-flight football match between **Rakow Czestochowa** and Pogon Szczecin, local hooligans displayed a banner saying *'Janusz Walus is our hero'*. Walus migrated to South Africa in 1993, where he murdered Chris Hani, an anti-apartheid leader. Walus was sentenced to life in prison for the murder [on parole since December 2022 – translator's note]. In recent years, far-right groups in Poland have made Walus a hero and praised the racially-motivated murder that he committed.

WROCLAW. On 8 March on Swidnicka Street, a group of assailants attacked a Chinese-born citizen of Poland to the point at which he lost consciousness. The men spat in the victim's face and felled him to the ground with their fists. *'Luckily, a passer-by quickly came to the aid of the man lying on the ground and began to help him, involving other people who happened to be nearby. My husband was hit straight in the face and was bleeding profusely. It's good that people came to his aid at once'* - said the wife of the victim. The man was taken to hospital. He has lived in Wroclaw for twenty-five years and is a well-known chef. He had previously received an award from the Mayor of the city for promoting Wroclaw as a place friendly to foreigners. On the internet, below articles reporting this attack many xenophobic comments were posted, including: *'The Chinaman deserved this because it was them who brought on this coronavirus. Why did he have to come here?'* His wife also reported other similarly motivated incidents experienced by her husband: *'Coronavirus seems to have deepened the hatred and aggression. Even now, when my husband takes the dog for a walk and people see him, they cross over to the opposite side of the street'*.

LEZAJSK. On 9 March, the **Perla Hotel and Banquet Centre** posted the following message on its **Facebook** profile: *'In connection with the threat of the coronavirus pandemic, the Perla hotel has called off all single and group reservations for Hasids'*. One internet user brought to the hotel management's attention that this post *'is very awkward and smells of antisemitism. It suggests that it is the Hasids, and not all other guests that are carriers of the virus'*. In response, a representative of the hotel defended the comment and did not delete the bulletin from Facebook.

WARSAW. On 10 March on Polsat News TV, Daria Kwiecien, a journalist, in a conversation with Dr. Anna Tatar, representing the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, described a xenophobic incident which took place in an international nursery. Parents of Polish children demanded of the director of the institution that in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, *'teachers who have Asiatic features or come from Asia'* (and only these teachers) cease to continue their daily activity within the nursery.

WARSAW. On 11 March, an unrecognized man behaved aggressively towards a woman from Ukraine on the number 13 tram. He insulted her with the words: *'Get the f*ck out of my country! What the f*ck do you want here, you parasite?'*, *'Whenever I hear this [Ukrainian] language I get furious'*, *'Ukrainian whores'*, *'I hate Ukraine'* and *'F*ck off back to Ukraine'*. He also threatened to beat her up.

WROCLAW. On 12 March, the Internet TV channel known as **NTV** hosted **Ewa Pawela** (who introduces herself as the *'whistle-blower of mind control'*, and is co-founder of the **Stop Organized Electronic Torture** association) voiced conspiracy theories pertaining to the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. She claimed that *'according to very serious scientific reports [...] there is no possibility for it to be a natural virus'*. She stated that *'traces of programming of that pathogen'* had been found, and that the virus *'has been produced in a laboratory, probably a military one with a very high degree of security'*, and that it was a *'biological weapons laboratory'*. Later in the discussion, Pawela referred with full respect to an *'authority'* (as she described him), namely the Russian biologist, **Igor Nikulin**, who *'in his interview for Russia Today in Arabic stated that the coronavirus is a biological weapon developed in order to reduce the population of our planet by ninety percent. He claims that the outbreaks of this infection point to the responsibility of the United States'*. Pawela added that it *'could also be Israel'*. Continuing on the same subject, she stated that *'it is possible to create an ethno-virus which will selectively infect members of a given nation with Arab or Jewish roots'*. According to Pawela, *'since 1998, the Israelis have been trying to develop such a biological weapon which would be targeted at and affect only Palestinians'*, whilst stating that at the same time the USA ran a project which would encompass *'all pathogens which would target some races, but spare others. And maybe this research is already so advanced that the US government felt it was ready to test it and try it out somewhere'*. The recording of Pawela's allegations was broadcast on YouTube, and had amassed a million and a half views by the beginning of May.

SKAWINA. On 14 March, **Teresa Garland**, known as the chairperson of the **Provisional Council of the State of the Polish Nation - the Constitutional Social Committee**, who was also a candidate on the **Grzegorz Braun** slate in the Polish parliamentary elections in 2015, and a candidate herself in the 2020 presidential elections, shared her opinions on the COVID-19 pandemic. Her thoughts

concerned both the global situation and in Poland, and included radical recommendations for the government: *'According to my knowledge, coronavirus is an extremely interesting move by globalists in the modern biological war, the aim of which I believe is to implement a New World Order. [...] And if this happens it is clear that Russia with China will introduce communism in southern Europe... In the meantime in Poland, with the help of German-American troops, the Jew-Americans will make sure that globalism is introduced in Poland... [...] Perhaps I will change my mind about the actions of the Morawiecki government if he issues an arrest warrant for anti-state elements and for the long arms of the globalists. in other words, I expect arrest warrants for all rectors of Polish universities (the majority of whom are apparently freemasons...), and arrest warrants for all members of the judiciary associations such as Iustitia or Themis, because it seems that the natural rights of Poles are being violated and the entire Polish nation is being exploited due to the laws created in Poland under the supervision of a number of legal or judicial associations, which in turn are controlled by Rothschild of Temple Bar in the City of London.'*

GDANSK. On 15 March, the management of student accommodation at a university in Gdansk abruptly forced a student of Japanese origin to go into quarantine solely because the student had met with his own father, a university professor from Tokyo who was legally present in Poland. The decision of the superintendent was not justified by any procedure that bound students of Polish origin. The embassy of Japan intervened in the matter. As the father of the student wrote in a letter to the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, *'it is difficult to understand such a decision in any way other than the simplified association of coronavirus with Asians'*.

KIELCZOW. On 15 March, the Bzns.media page on Facebook (a news website based in Kiev) published a video in which two female migrants from Ukraine explained how they had been evicted from a workers' hostel (no city name was given). The manager, citing new regulations connected with the COVID-19 epidemic, demanded that the women vacate the rented room immediately. Similar events occurred in many other hostels and hotels across Poland. Such an incident, amongst others, was reported by a woman from Kielczow in the county of Wroclaw. The woman, who rented out rooms to Ukrainian workers, said: *'Recently, some hostels have told Ukrainians to leave within one day. I will not chase my tenants out because that would be inhumane. These are such times that they must rely on both themselves and on us'*.

SZCZECIN. In mid-March, on Dworcowa Street, *'unknown perpetrators'* devastated a plaque with an inscription commemorating the local Jewish Community and Jewish residents of the city who were murdered during World War II in the Belzec extermination camp. Someone painted a swastika and the **SS** symbol on the plaque. A resident of Szczecin notified the police about this incident and then explained in a media statement that, *'The police refused to initiate an investigation because the plaque had been cleaned before their arrival'*. Sometime later, it was confirmed by Sgt. Pawel Pankau, that the Szczecin-Srodmiestecie Police had begun proceedings in relation to the incident, but that the investigation was not due to the report from the city resident, but *'as a result of a post noticed on Twitter'*.

WROCLAW. On 17 March, the former Catholic priest, **Jacek Miedlar**, an activist of extreme right, mused over conspiracy theories about alleged plans to depopulate the human race by means of the COVID-19 pandemic in a programme broadcast by the **wPrawo.pl** portal. He used the term ‘*ecoterrorism*’ multiple times referring to countries, organisations and activists concerned about the climate, stating that they support the push for ‘*depopulation, in other words bringing about in some way a reduction of world population*’. He compared them to **Adolf Hitler**, and used derogatory terms to describe a well-known Swedish climate activist, referring to her as: ‘*emotionally pathological teenager, Greta Thunberg*’ (by which he contemptuously alluded to sixteen-year-old Thunberg being diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome). To conclude his argument, **Miedlar** stated that ‘*those who publicly speak about the necessity to depopulate the human race [...] also identify themselves with ideologies such as LGBT, cultural Marxism, demoralisation of the community, and breaking the moral spine of young people by means of some internet junk or pop culture junk or trash from Hollywood on the screens. And, of course, we have to add all kinds of abortion and eugenics practices*’. During the programme, **Miedlar** was wearing an antisemitic t-shirt, with the slogan, ‘*I do not apologise for Jedwabne*’ (Jedwabne is the town where in 1941, some Poles assisted in the massacre of their Jewish neighbours).

LUKOW. On 19 March, three teenagers who were students at one of the local elementary schools attacked a fifty-nine-year-old Vietnamese resident of the town. They directed a number of insulting statements at her, including that she ‘*comes from China and has coronavirus*’, ‘*F*ck off you slut!*’, and ‘*Get the F*ck out of here, you whore, you F*cking Chinese woman!*’ The perpetrators hurled stones and litter at her, spat in her direction, and one of them pushed her. When the woman attempted to flee, the youths pursued her. The young assailants were aged ten to fourteen years. The police have conducted investigations into the case of insulting a person based on ethnicity and violation of physical integrity. A dossier of this case has been presented to the Family and Juvenile Department of the Regional Court in the town of Lukow. The victim has been living in Poland for twenty years.

WARSAW. On 21 March a number of antisemitic comments were posted below a video which featured the Israeli ambassador in Poland, Alexander Ben Zwi, on Twitter. The ambassador was informing Israeli citizens travelling in Poland about ways of getting back to their home country during the COVID-19 pandemic. In reaction to his statement, delivered in Hebrew, internet users posted, amongst others, the following comments (in Polish):

- ‘*When you leave, Poland will be rid of the worst virus*’
- ‘*Oh yes... get the F*ck out of here!*’
- ‘*God speed, you F*cking kikes*’
- ‘*Have a good one-way journey!*’
- ‘*Take with you ¾ of your people in our government*’
- ‘*One-way ticket...*’
- ‘*See you never again*’
- ‘*Paszol won!!!*’ [a derogatory phrase in Russian language used in Polish to chase off a dog – translator’s note],
- ‘*Never come back. Amen*’

- *'F*ck off, you cabalistic half-wit, together with them'*
- *'Finally, a sound decision, please don't come back and take all of your compatriots with you'*
- *'And don't you ever come back'*
- *'Let them also take Jews with Polish citizenship with them'*
- *'Let this be the end of your parasitic existence in Poland'*
- *'Raus home'* [*'Raus' is in German, a relic of Nazi occupation when soldiers yelled at people to get away – translator's note*].

Similar comments appeared on a host of media services and websites. For example, on Facebook in the **Poland Lawful and Just** group, the ambassador's statement was commented on in the following manner:

- *'Get the F*ck out of Poland'*
- *'Let us help them leave, some should be reminded of their true last names, changed by their parents and grandparents'*
- *'Swine to go to their own'*
- *'And it could all be solved by itself. Sometimes even a virus brings measurable advantages'*
- *'F*ck off and never come back!!!'*
- *'As a mean Jew, he hurls toxin at Poles'*
- *'Corona has done some good'*
- *'Good riddance, go to your own home!'*
- *'Let them leave at last and stop constantly spitting at our country – one-way ticket'*
- *'It's high time, maybe the virus will help us to get rid of them'*
- *'May it be as quick as possible, get the hell out of Poland'*
- *'They will come back for compensation'*
- *'I can help to expedite them effectively, my strength is in my leg'*
- *'Poland has waited for this for a thousand years – at last only we on our own'*
- *'I am all for it and never come back here, you are not welcome here, parasites and slanderers.'*

The ambassador's statement was also commented on by **Wojciech Sumlinski**, an investigative journalist and columnist. On 29 March, in a conversation broadcast on YouTube on the **wRealu24** channel, he sneeringly said: *'Only rarely do I agree with the Israeli ambassador! I think that this is an excellent idea that Jews really return to their fatherland!'*

BYDGOSZCZ. On 22 March, **Prelate Roman Kneblewski**, a senior parish priest of the Roman Catholic Parish dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, published a post on Facebook in which he mocked the COVID-19 victims in Italy. The clergyman, who is popular amongst those on the extreme right, is known for supporting the so-called Independence March, and for his xenophobic and homophobic statements, posted the following words: *'Since about 52,000 people die in Italy every month for various reasons, could the additional (or not, because it is not known) 5,000 have caused a disaster, a «state of war» or paralysis of the state and health service? Was it necessary to call on the army to form convoys with the dead for these additional 5,000? Why this circus? What's this all about? This is absurd'*. Kneblewski in other posts also questioned the ordinances introduced in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic. On the same day (22 March), he thanked his parishioners

for their physical participation in the Easter mass that took place in his church, which was contrary to the guidelines established during the Conference of Polish Bishops. He posted on Facebook: *'Dear all, you did not disappoint. You did not let yourself be fooled, intimidated, you did not succumb to psychosis and did not fall into hysteria. As usual, as befitting Catholics, you received Holy Communion in large numbers'*. In addition, on 20 April, Kneblewski shared an article on Facebook titled, *If not for quarantine, the epidemic would have ended a long time ago*, and accompanied it with the words: *'The voice of scientific authority'*. Moreover, Kneblewski wrote a number of social media posts supporting statements made by the anti-vaccine movement. For example, on 21 April on Twitter, he referred to a conspiracy theory on epidemics, and warned against wearing masks (the obligation to cover the nose and mouth was introduced in Poland on 16 April), because it would cause lung disease: *'It might be that the developers of coronavirus know all this very well and want to, by whatever means, cause people to lose health and have to then ask Bill Gates for vaccines. In this way, Bill Gates will achieve his plan: depopulation through forced vaccination'*. On 25 April, he posted the following comment on Twitter: *'Forced vaccination amounts to breeding people like cattle.'*.. along with graphics by **Ben Garrison**, an American cartoonist popular amongst the far-right in the USA (many of his drawings have antisemitic, racist and anti-Muslim content, and he also opposes vaccination).

LUBLIN. On 22 March, a candidate in the upcoming presidential election, professor at the Catholic University of Lublin, and former member of the European Parliament, **Mirosław Piotrowski**, who is associated with **Radio Maryja** (a Catholic-nationalist radio station), voiced doubts on his website as to the real threat from the COVID-19 pandemic, and suggested the existence of dishonesty in line with conspiracy theories which are popular in the extreme right community, adding his own film analogy: *'The question is: how long can one govern when [...] fears are found to be exaggerated? In searching for an answer in our minds we can go back to the plot of the film, Seksmisja directed by Juliusz Machulski, thirty-seven years ago. The main characters, Maksio and Albercik, after several decades of hibernation wake up underground in a world inhabited only by women, who do not venture outside due to contamination posing a threat to life. They soon find out that the radioactive pollution of the Earth is a lie, and Her Excellency is a man posing as a woman, and moreover, one who thinks soberly. After discovering the truth, in other words, that there is no danger, he has no intention of making the women aware of it, stating that since they had already decided to live underground, there is no point in leading them out of that error. So much so because when they feel a threat, they are easier to govern. Thus, one may wonder whether the coronavirus threat should be found to be otherwise harmless, will we be informed about this honestly or, like Her Excellency, our rulers will continue as long as it's possible, to keep up the veil of an active virus pollution, thus camouflaging the exits and blocking the elevator leading to freedom by a secret code? In that case, we would need a specific «Coronavirusmission» which will set us free.'*

WROCLAW. On 22 March, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association was informed about a xenophobic inscription that someone had painted in the city. The slogan *'F*ck Ukraine'* appeared on a wall of one of the city's buildings.

WARSAW. On 23 March, in an interview for the Onet portal, a man of Mongolian origin who has lived in Poland for twenty-three years (since childhood) described xenophobic incidents aimed at him and those close to him, in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. He said: *‘People shout when they see my family: «oh, there goes coronavirus!» [...] When it was still possible to go outside normally and the epidemic was already rife in the world, I noticed more unfriendly and suspicious looks from people in the streets than usual. On public transport, the seat next to me remained empty, regardless of how crowded it was. I also notice that people on social media have no problem with writing that «yellowfaces spread diseases»’.* The man also recalled other examples of xenophobic behaviour that he had experienced. For example, in one of Warsaw’s clubs he was harassed by several of his fellow customers because of his Asiatic features. Moreover, in a conversation with a journalist from Onet, he told her: *‘It’s a regular occurrence that someone reminds me about my being different. I often hear: «you are not at home here» which is meant to shut my mouth’.*

WARSAW. On 24 March, the **Nacjonalista.pl** portal, which is connected with the neo-fascist **National Rebirth of Poland (NOP)**, published an article by Russian extreme rightist ideologue, **Alexander Dugin** which joyously welcomed the COVID-19 pandemic, because according to him, *‘the coronavirus epidemic represents the end of globalisation’.* The editorial board of Nacjonalista.pl added its own view: *‘All nations must fight together against globalism, Zionism and liberalism. These plagues must be annihilated’.* This is not the first time that the NOP has expressed its fascination with foreign ideologues of fascism and fantasies about the destruction of the democratic world.

SOSNOWIEC. On 25 March, on Bedzinska Street, three men attacked a female of Chinese descent – a scientific worker of the Silesian University. The victim said: *‘They surrounded me; I was so afraid - even now I am trembling. They kept shouting «virus» and «China»’.* She also added: *‘They wanted to intimidate me, so that I would be afraid of living here. They wanted to make me afraid of leaving my home, because I am getting this kind of treatment every day. I do not feel safe here as a woman of Chinese descent’.* The motivation of her assailants was connected with the COVID-19 pandemic and the popularised notion that the ‘fault’ for the spread of the disease is borne by the Chinese, as well as other people of Asian origin.

WARSAW. On 25 March, in an interview broadcast by YouTube on the **wRealu24** channel, one of the leaders of the Polish extreme right and former Catholic priest, **Jacek Miedlar** voiced conspiracy theories connected with the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated: *‘There also appears such a theory that this coronavirus is a part of the plan for depopulation, about which Prince Charles spoke [...], about which Dennis Meadows, a member of the masonic lodge from Rome, spoke [an error in Miedlar’s words – it was a member of the Club of Rome, an international organisation grouping experts of many fields, which works on global problems – translator’s note], whose interview was published in 1979 in the «Kultura» periodical. Meadows says: for instance, when it concerns Poland, I think that your birth rate is too high, a population of fifteen million would guarantee a balance. [...] Taking into consideration the statement by Prince Charles, Meadows and also Bill Gates [...] let’s put these statements together with the ideology of ecoterrorists, in other words the battle for climate, with so-called global warming [...] – their common denominator is the realisation of the ideology of*

ecoterrorism. [...] It really boils down to such a speculation that coronavirus may be used to carry out depopulation of the human race, and it may prove to be quite realistic, absolutely’

POLAND. On 27 March, a video appeared on YouTube titled ‘*A Tale about the Coronavirus*’ – one designed for children which contained xenophobic overtones. The animated character represented a stereotypical Chinese man wearing supposedly traditional headgear, who in a kitchen full of dirty dishes and cockroaches on the wall was eating a soup cooked from bats. The words of this tale, read by a professional narrator, strengthened the visual message – in the video it was stated, for example, that the Chinese man collected ‘*in his kitchen clusters of viruses*’. He was also blamed for the rise of COVID-19, because he did not ‘*fully cook*’ the bat soup and fell ill, causing the pandemic. One internet user addressed the authors of the video (text and animation by Maciej Wieczorek from Perpetuum Studio and illustrations by the **Szerszy Kadr Foundation**) with a request to correct the fragment of the video which contained the xenophobic message. Replying to this, a representative of the Szerszy Kadr Foundation described the viewer’s reservations as a ‘*joke*’, ‘*total madness and a misunderstanding*’, and also refused to make any changes to the video.

WARSAW. On 27 March, the **wPolityce.pl** portal published an article by **Jacek Matysiak**, a Polish émigré activist living in the US, on the subject of the COVID-19 pandemic and the epidemiological situation in various countries. In his text the author included the following statement: ‘*The only hope remaining is that this horrid virus attacks Israel more acutely, then it will be accused of antisemitism and thus it will be its undoing...*’ Matysiak also propagated conspiracy theories in which he accused China of reaping benefits from the global effects of the pandemic. On 11 April, in an article published on the **wPrawo.pl** portal (run by the former priest, **Jacek Miedlar**, who sympathises with ideologies close to fascism), he stated, amongst other things, that: ‘*The act of «liberating» many countries of medical accessory equipment, essential to combatting the epidemic seems to be driven, coordinated and likely to be carried out by Chinese agents*’. He also insulted the General Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, writing: ‘*The Ethiopian leftie boss negated the existence of the pandemic and had nothing against the spread of the latest mutation of Coronavirus across the entire world*’.

WARSAW. On 27 March, during an interview broadcast by the **wRealu24** channel on YouTube, Dr. **Ewa Kurek**, a graduate of history at the Lublin Catholic University and book author, who is known for her appearances on the Polish state television **TVP** and **Radio Maryja** (a Catholic-nationalist radio station), uttered statements that were antisemitic in character. She referred to the recent announcement by the Israeli Ambassador in Poland, Alexander Ben-Zvi, who had informed Israeli citizens travelling in Poland about the possibilities of returning to their country, in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated: ‘*What kind of person is a Zionist? It’s a Jew who for another Jew’s money sends a third Jew to Israel. [...] To us Poles, it’s no problem - it’s better that everyone stays in their own place. Six hundred years ago King Casimir the Great invited them, so let only those who feel they are Polish citizens stay in Poland. And those who do not bind their lives and emotions with Poland, please yourselves – it’s better you leave*’. Later on in the same programme, Kurek spoke about a phenomenon which she described as the ‘*Judaisation of Europe*’, which she tied to the COVID-19 pandemic: ‘*I notice something else that is connected with Jews, I would call it the*

«Judaisation of Western Europe» [...]. In Spain it was decided that they would make [...] selections, because the number of respirators is insufficient to meet the needs of everyone, so respirators will only be for younger, more valuable people. This is appalling. In this case, we have to do with something taken directly from Jewish law and used in Europe. [...] Suddenly, with my own eyes I saw that this Jewish law is being introduced into our Western Christian civilisation, For God's sake, people, think of what you're doing!' She also added: 'In this Western Europe, which, after all, is falling to pieces, in this situation of threat, we see a domination of a conglomerate of Judaisation, in other words allowing the selection of people: who is to live and who is to die. In our civilisation this was unacceptable [...], it was only incumbent on the Jews'. Kurek also stated: 'And now this fascist-Jewish, Judaistic behaviour is seen in Western Europe'. She emphasised that in the case of Western Europe, predominantly France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Spain 'it is appalling that they are unable to deal with this pandemic, and equally appalling is the Judaisation and development of fascism in those people's mentality'. Later in the programme Kurek, when asked by the interviewer, **Piotr Szlachetowicz** about the 'Judaisation of Europe', said: 'This is the cultural code of the Jews'. He also asked about her thoughts on the 'Jewish manipulation of history', specifically about the events of World War II. In response, she stated that 'One hundred and fifty thousand Jews fought on **Hitler's** side, and the world doesn't know it. Jews have adopted a principle that Jews may not be criticised'.

POZNAN. On 28 March, the popular rap artist **Gandi Ganda** (real name **Piotr Miezal**) disseminated conspiracy theories on his Facebook profile, accusing the Chinese of creating the COVID-19 pandemic intentionally. The musician stated: 'And what if the present situation is the result of actions by the Chinese regime which decided that a «third world war» should break out and take over economic supervision in a manner that doesn't leave anything to illusion? [...] They could have cultivated that virus which was found to be a shot right on the mark, and then create a performance for the entire world'. He also added: 'And when Europe and the United States are being submerged in chaos and are sentencing their economies to a nonentity, the Chinese at the same time are promoting themselves as heroes who can expertly deal with the virus and now are willing to help others. From their perspective, it's a tactical masterpiece, from ours it's a total flop and in consequence a catastrophe much greater than a «pandemic»'. Towards the end of March, Gandi Ganda posted a declaration of support on his Facebook profile for **Krzysztof Bosak**, the **Confederation** party Member of Parliament who is running in the 2020 Polish presidential election.

WARSAW. On 28 March, employees of municipal services in a housing estate, who were carrying out work on a manhole shouted the insult, 'coronavirus!' at a woman and her son who were passing by. The reason for this transpired to be the Asiatic features of their faces. The wronged woman informed the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association about this incident. She also informed the association of another xenophobic incident: 'An elderly woman outside the post office building called us «zoltki» [a Polish word meaning 'yellow-face', used in a derisive way against people from Asia – translator's note]. We are Polish citizens, I work here every day and live in Warsaw, I pay taxes here and I engage in volunteer work, but because of such behaviour by adults I am uneasy about the safety of my son. He was born in Poland and regards himself as a Pole with all given rights, but he has my Asiatic facial features'.

WARSAW. On 30 March, **Media Narodowe**, an extreme right-wing portal, disseminated information on its website and on Twitter, alleging that in Italy, people identified as Roma (derisively referred to as *'gypsies'* in the article) had illegally occupied the apartments of mainly elderly COVID-19 hospital patients. In the press release, generalised and stigmatising expressions were used, aimed at inciting animosity towards representatives of the Roma community, including the title of the article: *'Italy: Gypsies are illegally occupying apartments of elderly people who have been taken to a hospital'*, *'Scandalous practices of Gypsies in Italy'*, and *'Internet users are indignant at the criminal activity of Gypsies'*. The response to the article on Twitter included extreme racist and violence-inciting comments, including: *'Enter the Carabinieri, handcuffs, prison cell. If not, paid Mafiosi shooting from every barrel'*; and one Twitter user posted an animation depicting a man firing a flame thrower.

LUBLIN. On 31 March a radical right-wing YouTube channel **Idz Pod Prad (Go Against the Tide)** broadcast an episode titled *'WHO shares the responsibility for the outbreak of the Chinese virus!'* In their conversation, host **Eunika Chojecka** together with her interlocutor pastor **Pawel Chojecki** (leader of the religious group known as **Kosciol Nowego Przymierza** [*'Church of the New Covenant'*]) preached conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic. At the beginning of the broadcast, Chojecka stated that *'The World Health Organisation has infected the whole world'*. In turn pastor Chojecki described COVID-19 as a biological weapon, stating afterwards: *'The communist China with all globalist saboteurs, the so-called leftists around the world, have perfectly prepared themselves for the biological weapon attack. [...] Exactly the same operation was carried out in Wuhan. Once thousands of people became infected, the Chinese communist party let around eight million people into Wuhan to get infected and later spread the virus all over the world. [...] Chinese communists took over the World Health Organisation. [...] Our health minister did not prepare us for this biological attack'*. Later in his argument, Pawel Chojecki accused the World Health Organization of genocide: *'The communist conspiracy began way before. [...] The UN was precisely created with the participation of Russian and Chinese communists, who were then given very important places in the permanent council. And now China, not the Western world, has taken over this entire organisation, and certainly WHO. [...] An organisation that was supposed to guard the whole world, committed a crime of genocide instead'*. Chojecki also presented an extreme conspiracy vision of the omnipresent Chinese 'eye', which is allegedly in control of various fields in Poland: *'Why is nobody talking about the presence of the Chinese army at the military academy in Warsaw? [...] Everyone knows that. Wherever you look – whether at the Health Organisation or at the Polish military academy, there are communist spies everywhere'*.

MIELEC. At the end of March, on the viaduct at Kolejowa Street, someone wrote the words *'F*ck the Jews'* and *'AJ'* (an abbreviation of *'Anty Jude'*, popular among football hooligans) together with the symbol of a crossed out Star of David.

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POLAND. In March and April, during the COVID-19 epidemic, a large number of posts were observed on social media containing conspiracy theories, as well as expressing hatred towards

Chinese people and people from the continent of Asia more generally. Here is a selection of the comments posted on Polish Twitter:

- *'Again, these Chinks will devour dogs, bats and all kinds of horrible things, and in a moment, something will again cause a big fart. They are savages, the whole world is suffering because of them'*
- *'Damned Chinks... they should be disposed of. You've destroyed everything and you still want more!'*
- *'Because SARS and MERS are animal viruses, while Chinks are whores who eat everything that comes close, often raw. This is why, amongst other things, I can't stand them and nobody will convince me that they did not contribute to this epidemic in a more or less natural way'*
- *'So, we'll not even get a grip on ourselves yet and we won't have the time to mourn the victims of one tragedy when those Chinks will present us with a new one. Close the borders to them, let them destroy themselves. What kind of a nation are they? Terrible barbarism. Are you going to enjoy the taste of a dog in their restaurants?'*
- *'The yellow-faces are also sorting telephones, although they won't tell the truth, that's a fact, because it's an exceptionally strange country. It's certain that pharmaceutical companies are making a profit on it, they must have had such a plan and there again, they eat dogs, those Chinks, what swine they are'*
- *'Those Chinks some two thousand years ago – that was culture... but today they are slobs and poisoners'*
- *'And maybe those yellow-faces wanted to dominate the world???'*
- *'We will not allow yellow-faces or Muslims to have their way in Poland!!'*
- *'Nations of the world, thank the Chinks for F*cking the world to pieces. Thank you, yellow-faces. Send those Chinks back to their rice fields and never again let them in to the civilised world. Scram!'*
- *'F*ck me pink, I hope these yellow-faces will be annihilated to F*cking hell'*
- *'You F*cking yellow-faces, you'd better find something to combat this shit that you created yourselves or else I will walk around and cough at every Chink I meet in the street'*
- *'They should drop the atom bomb on them, no kidding'*
- *'The Chink government, as well as the majority of people there should be disposed of. Those skin-eaters thought that they would play that virus quietly, like some time ago the Ruskies did with Chernoby!'*
- *'If the Chinks knew about the epidemic at home earlier and hid it from the rest of the world and sent out infected people to Europe and the world, they should answer for that, those s.o.b's. Let's put an end to trade, diplomacy, and transfer of companies. Punish those shitfaces!!! F*cking yellowfaces!!!'*
- *'Because the world consists of people and Chinks. Simply animals. Yellowfaces are not human'*
- *'Coronavirus is the ideal disease. The mortality rate is not too high, but its rate of spread allows it to block the entire system of health care. And this evokes panic. Those Chinks have configured it well'*
- *'A prophecy says that Poland will save the world from the yellow plague and total annihilation of mankind. We will then become the most powerful nation'*
- *'Man, understand that the virus was manufactured in a Chinese soap factory. In Germany and Italy, they bought out all the soap because they are sluts and had no soap at home. Poles have soap. So why do we have the virus?'*
- *'Life during the Coronavirus epidemic is like a Chinese man – zero morality, everyone cares only for himself and it's better to stay at home'*

- one internet user also attached a photo inciting violence – it depicted a man aiming a pistol with the caption: *'Japs, Chinks'*.

Some posts on Twitter were simultaneously offensive to the Chinese and Jews, for example:

- *'Chinks are apt to do better underhand business than the Jews'*
- *'The vaccination has been here for a long time, it's impossible otherwise. Jews or Chinks are certain to have it, but it's accessible only to a chosen few'*
- *'Jews can't be trusted and Law and Justice are jews [writing 'jews' with a lowercase 'j' is a deliberate mark of contempt – translator's note]... and let's add that it is probable that the virus is a deliberate act by Chinese commies in secret agreement with governments such as Law and Justice, aimed at taking over banks and industrial institutions!'*
- *'IMHO: Those cowboys with sidelocks dumped a cuckoo egg on the yellow-faces for a known reason, and lo and behold, one big flop! – The stink ricocheted back to its fold... For now, the project is developing in accordance with the wishes of its authors – what do they do not to allow it to exceed the critical point and to not reach them...?'*
- *'Why put up a wall, it's enough to impose a «quarantine» on the Chinese. First, they sold it to us and now they're making dough on it! Those yellowfaces are better at it than Jewboys!'*

Moreover, some posts managed to simultaneously insult both the Chinese and those of African origin, for example:

- *'White people are being mass slaughtered in the RSA. Chinks are effective because they don't play around with human or gay rights, but Blacks see what is going on and already voices can be heard that the white man was a better master'*
- *'The Chinks have infected half the world, most probably resorting to fraud and now, F*ck it all, making money on facemasks and respirators. I would force them to face a tribunal. This chief of the WHO is also a better conman. Ethiopian commie.'*

POLAND. In March and April in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of antisemitic conspiracy theories were posted online. Their authors attributed the intentional spread of the new virus to Jews, accusing them of reaping profit from the pandemic. Here are some selected comments posted on Twitter:

- *'We already know that the WHO is playing not under the baton of the Chinese, but that of the Jews. They want to paralyse Europe's economy and then Jews will finish up the destruction of the European Union. Later, the World Bank will give the funds, and all that will travel to their pockets. There will come about a depopulation and change of the population in Europe to Asians and Africans'*
- *'Jews were looking for a biological weapon against the Palestinians. Something went a bit wrong because they have genes similar to those of Palestinians. If the Palestinians were destroyed, the Jews would die together with them'*
- *'Some 2 years ago the Jews were engaged in massive genetic studies in Israel. Everybody laughed that it was to assess the amount of Jew in a Jew. Perhaps they planned to create a virus with a genetic restriction'*
- *'Soon the Jews will think up an immediate vaccine for a pseudo-coronavirus. And cash will flow, as well as a flock of sheep free of charge to test the vaccine on'*

- *'Again, those Jewish lies about a «Chinese virus»... Even without them everyone knows already that the virus comes from a Jewish laboratory in the USA. Jews keep on thinking that propaganda still acts like it did during Soviet times'*
- *'It's worth checking out: 7 children in Senegal died after getting an experimental COVID-19 vaccine. WHO is a masonic elite murdering mankind, participating in murdering children, Jews get the F*ck out of the government'*
- *'Next year, the Jews will launch a flow of loans to all governments willing to put an end to the economic crisis caused by the virus which they spread themselves. And we will continue to pay back those shekels for two generations. That's what they call it'*
- *'Maybe this killing of the Polish economy under the pretext of combatting coronavirus is intentional. When Ukraine went bankrupt, Jews took over the bankruptcy estate for next to nothing. Looking at all the actions of those ruling Poland with regard to the Jewish claims, such an intention would not be surprising'*
- *'First they think up the coronavirus which doesn't exist to instil fear in to the community, they make us wear facemasks which don't help, now some kind of vaccines, which will be pounced upon by people like crazy, while the wealthy Jew stands aside with stoic peace and counts the money'.*

POLAND. In March and April, during the coronavirus pandemic, a large number of comments were posted on social media which can be deemed offensive to Ukrainians. Below is a selection of comments posted on Twitter in Poland:

- *'One good thing: I was told that the Ukrainians are leaving our country in droves'*
- *'They say that the Ukrainians are going home, but why there are still so many of them in my town?'*
- *'We should never let them back! This is an invasion. Warsaw looks like Kiev now, when I go home on public transport, most of the passengers are Ukrainians, it's shocking'*
- *'I'm so happy they're leaving. The fewer Ukrainians, the better for Poles. Especially considering that 300,000 Poles have just returned home'*
- *'Go home, you trash!'*
- *'They should stay in Ukraine'*
- *'Do the Ukrainians have special rights in Poland? To get COVID and spread it in Ukraine? I hope they do. Good riddance'*
- *'They should be dead'*
- *'I was told that personal protective equipment will go first to the Ukrainians who don't pay their taxes. That's confirmed'*

One internet user posted an offensive comment towards Nobel prize winner, Olga Tokarczuk: *'You're not Polish. You're a guest here and in my city, so behave yourself. If you don't like it, go to Germany. They accept all the coloured ones. If you had a shred of dignity, you'd be helping your compatriots, the Ukrainians'.*

Some comments were both anti-Ukrainian and antisemitic:

- *'I see this virus has a cleansing effect. The Ukrainians are leaving, the Jews are leaving'*
- *'Ukrainians and Israeli Jews will replace the Poles. This is already going on. Unfortunately'.*

POLAND. In March and in successive months a number of hateful and xenophobic comments appeared on the internet referring to Italians, with reference to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is a selection of the posts observed on Polish Twitter:

- *'Haha, those Italians are cute, singing on their balconies. Because of these irresponsible morons the virus has spread to the rest of Europe, let's stop admiring these idiots'*

- *'How long has it been going on with those Italians? And zero effect... Unless they are deliberately lying and pushing their economy down the drain to blame it on the virus... It hasn't looked bright lately with their financial situation'*

- *'This virus will partially cure Italians of their arrogance, ignorance and stupidity. But this is an EXPENSIVE lesson in humility'*

Some of the posts were also of racist character and targeted at people from other countries:

- *'I wondered what the Chinese, Italians and Iranians have in common. What kind of genetic trait which could attract this coronavirus? That trait is black hair. Jet black. Question to genetics specialists: Is it possible to develop a virus targeted at those who have black hair? This is interesting how it is with the coronavirus in Poland'*

- *'I am asking you... POLES + to immediately GET OUT OF THE GERMAN UNION + in a time of crisis + it can be seen, that the UNION is up to shit + the WEST IS TOTALLY CORRUPT + during the crisis it is seen that the Union is NOT NEEDED by the Slavs! The virus is devouring Spaniards and Italians + because they are black *SLUTS* WE = SLAVS!!'* (the post was riddled with spelling mistakes in the Polish original).

POLAND. In March and in successive months a number of comments appeared on social media expressing aversion towards Germans in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some examples of comments posted on Polish Twitter:

- *'Germany should stop lying to Europe about coronavirus, every Pole who goes there and comes back is infected with the German virus. It's a lie that he was lucky enough to meet only one of those 500 infected people in this country of 80 million inhabitants. Everyone says that they are the main source of the virus'*

- *'Because it's a clever virus. It knew that in Poland it must wait its turn, until it gets a dignified welcome from the authorities. But I would have never suspected that Germany would give us the virus'*

- *'The Germans AT LAST have their own East Pomerania, Greater Poland and Silesia [regions in Poland – translator's note]. So, what was the reason for all those wars when one virus does the job?'*

- commenting on the allegation that Germany will falsify data on mortality numbers due to COVID-19: *'Germany has long standing experience in this field. In concentration camps people most frequently «died» of heart failure'*

- *'Germany: The threat of coronavirus in Heidelberg: an infected man applying for political asylum brought the deadly virus! «Thanks» to open borders!'* This post was accompanied by graphics depicting a black man against a background of COVID-19 virus particles, magnified by a microscope.

WARSAW. In March and April, the internet forum of the ultra-Catholic internet portal, **Fronda.pl** became a medium for the widespread sharing of bizarre conspiracy theories pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is a selection of such posts:

- *'The intellectually weakest individuals (in other words, common idiots) will run to be vaccinated, and by doing this will annihilate themselves'*. This comment related to a thread titled, *'Maybe there is some positive effect of the Coronavirus pandemic'*
- *'The virus from Wuhan was designed by the Chinese Communists in order to destroy the free world'*. This comment appeared on a thread titled: *'The Vatican: Covid-19 is an occasion to... strengthen globalisation?'*
- *'World public opinion can boldly blame God for this pandemic; it's God that brought this pandemic on us as punishment for sins such as LGBT, gender, homosexuality, etc. However, as usually happens with God's punishments, the wrong people get punished'*. This comment appeared on a thread titled: *'World public opinion demands investigation of the pandemic origin'*
- *'All of us are preoccupied with coronavirus, while Bergoglio [Pope Francis, who is scorned by Catholic fundamentalists – translator's note] in his homilies, scrupulously presented by the Vatican News, keeps on promoting the masonic programme of sustainable development of the UN Agenda 2030; in various configurations and scenes, on every occasion'*. This comment was posted on a thread titled: *'Bill Gates: the Catholic religion could be permanently suspended'*
- *'So, it looks like it's the Chinese and not Bill Gates who want to inoculate people worldwide with a vaccine containing a chip, and use this occasion to rip countries off by 10 billion dollars? Are the American paedophile lefties moulding the people and covering their tracks?' and 'The intelligence service should check whether tourists were lured to the city of Wuhan by discounted fares, whether such discounts were offered in earlier years, which citizens and how far they were accommodated from the epicentre of the infection, did tour guides lead people and encourage to see places with the highest infection rates, what were tourists fed and where did the food come from (green salads), and whether important people, the highest state elites are vaccinated against coronavirus etc. Maybe the plan was to infect tourists and to spread the disease to other countries in order to weaken their economies'*. These comments appeared below an article titled: *'The Chinese Offensive. How Beijing is Using the Pandemic'*.

MASZKOWICE. On 1 April, the Polish Ombudsman for Human Rights, Dr. Adam Bodnar, appealed at the request of a representative of the local Roma community, to the administrator of Lacko, a subdivision in the county of Nowy Sacz, for assistance in getting essential support from the local government to the inhabitants of a Roma settlement in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic. The ombudsman emphasised in his letter: *'The threat to health and safety in this district is currently especially high, if only because of the housing conditions prevailing there, the lack of access to a sewage system and in the case of some houses, even a lack of running water. Amongst the inhabitants, there are people of very advanced age and some who are chronically ill, in whose case infection by coronavirus is particularly dangerous'*. He also added: *'The representative of the Roma community has also drawn my attention to the problem of access to education for children living in that community, as the result of the suspension of functioning of education centres and the introduction of remote education. On the basis of information passed on to me, I doubt if the young inhabitants of the settlement are able to access such education, if they receive essential material regularly from the school to learn, and if the school involves assistants of Roma education to a sufficient degree in the education process'*. In his response to the appeal by the ombudsman, the administrator of the Lacko subdivision stated that the *'safety of inhabitants, both of the*

settlement, as well as of the entire region is a top priority, and of all subordinate institutions and units'. He added: *'With regards the question raised of possible provision of disinfectant and personal care items to inhabitants (of whom I assume live in our region), I am pleased to inform you that the inhabitants are acquiring these on their own'*.

PRUSZCZ GDANSKI. On 1 April, the popular portal **Demotywatory.pl** published a fake photograph, disseminating a conspiracy theory, which was made to resemble an authentic image from CNN television: it depicted an official ceremony with the participation of people with Asiatic features, captioned: *'China apologises for the coronavirus epidemic'*. Numerous racist comments appeared in response to the image, including: *'This scabby slitty-eyed nation should pay dearly for this to the entire world'*, *'Would the Chinese obligate themselves to pay for what they had done? Not a chance'*, and *'Now, by the way, the chinese [beginning the word with lowercase 'c', to make it appear more derogatory – translator's note] are themselves like viruses and pests'*.

SYDNEY (AUSTRALIA). On 1 April, **Bogumil Drozdowski**, poet and actor, published a xenophobic poem, titled *'Chinese Fiancée'* on **Puls Polonii (Pulse of Polish Diaspora)**, a popular internet portal of the Polish community in Sydney, Australia. In the poem he used stereotypical slurs, identifying the virus with everything that is Chinese. He also scoffed at elements of Chinese culture and humiliated people with Chinese roots. He wrote, amongst other things: *'Is it a HE or a SHE? The gender is undefined. Slitty-eyed swirus'* (a Polish play on words meaning virus and crazy), *'She got bored with ping pong and sweet and sour sauce. Like the Golden Fleet 500 years ago, she set out to conquer the world'*, and *'Chopsticks in your hand, I'll teach you to eat loudly, I'll murmur the song about the great Mao'*. He ended the poem with the following words: *'Don't you really understand who is most important in today's world? It's me – Corona, the Chinese fiancée to all'*.

WARSAW. On 2 April, a news broadcast on the state television channel, **TVP1** accused the residents of refugee camps in Greece of spreading COVID-19. The report related to the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg given on 2 April, according to which Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary had failed to fulfil their obligations under EU law by refusing to comply with the temporary mechanism for the relocation of refugees which was established by the EU Council in 2015 in response to the migration crisis. The TVP material was riddled with manipulation and adulteration, and used the judgment of the ECJ as a pretext to present refugees as an epidemiological threat, as well as once again associating them with the *'Muslim terrorists'* responsible for attacks in Europe. Since 2015 this notion has been ever-present on the airwaves of state-owned television. **Maciej Sawicki**, co-presenter of the report, said: *'Coronavirus has been found in a Greek refugee camp. As many as twenty immigrants from the Middle East are infected. [...] Local residents are full of fear because there are many escapes from the camp, and the situation in Greece is getting worse. And yet the judgment of the ECJ leaves no doubt: the safety of the local community is less important than EU regulations'*. The programme suggested that the decision of the EU authorities would impose the obligation to immediately accept a certain number of refugees on Poland, despite the ongoing epidemic. In actual fact, the relocation programme ended in 2017. In addition, clusters of images were presented, without any details as to where and when they had been obtained. The images presented groups of refugees carrying large amounts of luggage,

crowding at the Turkish border behind barbed wire, or dark-skinned people being guarded by policemen, and women in hijabs. The images were combined with snapshots of terrorist attacks, and served to strengthen the xenophobic tone of the report. However, it was not mentioned that the squalid conditions in the refugee camps—above all their overcrowding and lack of any medical care—had served to increase the risk of an epidemic. In the face of this critical situation, at the end of March 2020, international humanitarian organisations called for immediate action.

GDANSK. On 3 April, the Human Rights Ombudsman, Dr. Adam Bodnar, addressed an appeal to the mayors of Gdansk, Poznan, and Wroclaw to *‘immediately undertake all possible prophylactic action regarding the Roma people, which would allow us to lessen the risk of infection [by COVID-19 – translator’s note]’*. He also asked the mayors about the support offered to date for the Roma community, in addition to a question on the supply of disinfectants and sanitary items, as well as the situation of Roma school students. In response to this appeal by Adam Bodnar, on 13 April, the daily newspaper *‘Gazeta Wyborcza’* published an article describing the extremely poor conditions prevailing in the Osowa settlement, which is populated by Roma people and lacks substantive help from the authorities in Gdansk. The author of the article, Anna Dobiegala described how the Roma community – a population of approximately sixty people (of which half are children) – has access to only a single toilet. She added: *‘From the day of the announcement of the state of epidemic in Poland, the social worker of the Municipal Centre for Family Help in Gdansk stopped appearing on Wenus Street in that settlement. Every second day he calls the Roma community on the phone, and asks if everything is OK. The children there have no access to the internet or computers, and endure unsuitable living conditions to participate in remote education. On the day the schools were closed, Roma children were deprived overnight of the possibility of education. The area has no doctor, and facemasks were supplied by Roman Nowicki [until the end of 2019, Assistant to Roma families in Gdansk. As of 1 January 2020, the city does not employ anyone in that capacity – translator’s note]. On site he took everyone’s temperature. The Municipal Centre for Family Support did not supply the Roma people with disinfectant, no other portable toilet appeared there, and the inhabitants still do not have access to water – they use a hydrant from the street’*. As the reporter of *‘Gazeta Wyborcza’* wrote, food parcels are practically the sole form of help the Roma people have received during the COVID-19 epidemic. After the media raised the issue, officials supplied the Osowa settlement with liquid disinfectant, gloves, and face masks.

WARSAW. On 3 April, **Fr. Slawomir Abramowski**, the parish priest of the St. John Paul II church in the district of Bemowo, published a post on Facebook in which he indicated *‘how much good happened in Europe thanks to the [COVID 19 – translator’s note] disease’*. Amongst the positive aspects of the pandemic he mentioned the lack of marches for the rights of sexual minorities. Abramowski accused the marches’ organisers of spreading COVID-19: *‘There are no gay parades now. It will be a long time before they return to Spain, because it was just such a demonstration by thousands of «genderists» disregarding the epidemic that became a biological bomb spreading the plague in Madrid’*.

BERLIN. On 4 April, the Polish state television TVP correspondent in Germany, **Cezary Gmyz** shared a post on his Twitter account, accusing Muslims in Berlin of gathering outside a mosque –

an act which could cause COVID-19 to spread. The post originated from the account of the far right party **AfD**. The material posted by Gmyz sparked a wave of anti-Islamic comments which were visible on his profile, such as: *'Such a Muslim will not die politely as he should in the peace of his house quarantine, he will wander about the city and spread the disease until he dies and takes thousands of people with him', 'I would fence off this whole area right now and chase these good-for-nothings inside and never let them out... let them rot in the mosque... we can also cough right into it', 'To them it is a biological weapon that they use in their fight against the infidels, to kill them in this way, and if they are to die while doing it, they believe themselves to be martyrs for their faith', 'There'll be less Muslims, so, bottom line is OK...', and 'But let them meet there and not here. The fewer black faces in Germany, the fewer in our beautiful country'.*

WARSAW. On 4 April, an article by **Krzysztof Zagozda** titled 'The Pandemic Serves the Globalisation and Construction of Polin' (the Hebrew name for Poland) appeared on the website, **Nacjonalista.pl** which is connected to the **National Rebirth of Poland (NOP)**. It presented an antisemitic vision of the effects of the pandemic in Poland: *'My friend, a new citizen, using a fresh passport, will come to replace you. He will take over your bankrupt workshop and will then hire you. If you manage to survive a wave of suicides, you will have to rely on his pleasure and displeasure. You'll like his strange accent and the smell of garlic and onion around him. But will he like you? The blame for the entire odium resulting from the transformation of Polish society, namely from its pauperisation, will fall on the coronavirus, that means nothing. Our big businesses were stolen from us a long time ago. Now is the time for the small ones; they are small but still gave us scraps of freedom. Their new owners are already booking tickets at Ben Gurion Airport. Now you know who the empty housing estates are waiting for, those hundreds of hectares bought under the pretext of building the Park of Poland – Suntago [a recently opened water park in Zyrardow, central Poland – translator's note], and others whose existence we cannot even sense yet? Now do you know why Israeli capital took over the shares in our largest security companies? Now do you comprehend all these circumstances related to Polin? «The pandemic serves globalisation» – there are plenty of such warnings on the internet. And it is hard to deny them. Everyone, even if a little overwhelmed, equipped with knowledge of the alphabet and the ability to use reason, will sooner or later come to the same conclusions. The difference of opinion can only be as to whether THEY developed the virus themselves, or only cleverly took advantage of the event of its «spontaneous birth» and expansion'.* The article was accompanied by an illustration of the shadow of a stereotypical Jew with a caricatured large nose.

POLAND. On 6 April on the **Sport.pl** portal, numerous racist comments were observed below an article published within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which were aimed towards people of African origin. The text referred to a proposal made by two French physicians to test the new vaccines on residents of Africa. Against such notions, protests were expressed publicly by sportsmen, including Samuel Eto'o, a former footballer of the FC Barcelona team, as well as Austrian footballer of Nigerian origin, David Alaba, currently of Bayern Munich, who wrote: *'Trying a COVID-19 vaccine in Africa??? Are these two guys doctors or clowns? This is a kind of racism I could never imagine. Disgraceful and unacceptable! We all have to stand together and work hand in hand to fight this virus'.* Below the article summarising the controversial proposal, as well as the critical responses

from the sportsmen, Polish internet users wrote the following comments: *'If you don't like it, hit the road home. Even without these players European leagues are coming more and more to look like the African Tribes Cup', 'Let the negroids serve some benefit', 'And this is a good idea, at least it will save some Guinea pigs!', 'I understand that they will spurn a vaccine from a white man. So, it's interesting where will they get it from? From Vacanda?'* [Vacanda is a fictional country in sub-Saharan Africa, created by Marvel Comics – translator's note], *'Virologists from sub-Saharan territories, working in medical academies located in oases will fend for themselves – they don't need the help of white racists!'*, and *'Let them F*ck off to Africa and there test the vaccine on Europeans. What's the problem?'*. The racist posts did not evoke any response from moderators.

WARSAW. On 7 April, **Hanna Kazahari** who lives in Tokyo and is the founder of the TAMA Forum for Polish Expatriates in Japan, and **Rafal Mossakowski** who was hosting a talk published on YouTube on the **CEPolska (Poland Educational Centre)** channel, voiced antisemitic claims with reference to the COVID-19 pandemic. They both avoided the use of the word 'Jews', and instead used such expressions as 'Zionists' or 'the Rothschilds'. For instance, Mossakowski used this term to describe members of the World Health Organization (WHO), sneeringly remarking: *'Of course it's us, the Zionists, we created this organisation and we run it'*. Kazahari reacted to that by stating that the pandemic was the result of action by 'the Rothschilds' [another term used to allude to Jews – translator's note], who *'want to control all people in the world, they want to have people chained, to put them in cages, to enslave them. They want to change the entire world into one huge, beautiful concentration camp'*. She also spoke about the activity of Bill Gates and the alleged *'plan to introduce the Fourth Reich by the Zionists'*. Kazahari went on to reveal such a vision: *'Fascism was a German national socialism stemming from the Rothschilds, and the Rockefellers. Same with Communism. Marxism and Leninism took their roots from the ideology of the Rockefellers and the Rothschilds, it was financed and supported. All these total absurdities, the gulags, the collective farms were the brainchild of the Rothschilds and the Rockefellers [...], so that we would be like livestock being led to the slaughter. Concentration camps were their invention. They got bored so for some years they made concentration camps for Muslims and for Palestinians. Now the time has come for Europe, the United States, and Japan'*. Both Kazahari and Mossakowski expressed doubt as to the existence of COVID-19, and downplayed the number of deaths due to the virus. They claimed that the 'Zionist media' had manipulated photos of piled up caskets in the USA and in Italy, and that these photos had actually been taken in 2014. They both compared the reality of combatting the epidemic in Poland to a concentration camp. Mossakowski said: *'The television should take archive footage from Auschwitz-Birkenau, show it and say: this is today's view of Warsaw, how Poles work, all dressed the same in such striped garments and this is just another day of the coronavirus epidemic in Poland'*. To this, Kazahari replied that *'we have not strayed far from Auschwitz-Birkenau'*, and claimed that even in today's world there are rituals of the drawing and ingesting of children's blood, and as an example she named Hillary Clinton, who together with her assistant *'tortured a girl'* (this is probably a reference to the so-called 'pizzagate', an absurd conspiracy theory, spread by the extreme right in the USA in 2016). She also spoke about a *'cookbook written by Dr. Mengele together with Hillary Clinton in which people are cut up'*. At the end of the conversation she added that *'one should fear the fascist government which puts the Zionist plan into practice in Poland, because we have a total back-to-the wall situation of a concentration camp and Polish secret agents act as capos in this camp'*.

The CEP channel is known for propagating antisemitism, it has featured guests such as **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** (who hosts programmes on Polish state television TVP) and **Confederation** party Member of Parliament, **Krzysztof Bosak** (a candidate in the 2020 presidential elections), on numerous occasions.

SZPROTAWA. On 8 April, local media reported that a security guard of the **Biedronka** supermarket on Mlynarska Street refused a Ukrainian man entrance to the store on the grounds of the customer's nationality. One witness to the event reported: *'When the young man tried to enter the store, the security guard asked him if he was Polish or Ukrainian. When he replied that he was Ukrainian, he was told that he could not go inside'*. The employee's xenophobic behaviour apparently stemmed from the belief that all persons of Ukrainian origin in Szprotawa were carriers of COVID-19. None of the other customers intervened in the situation. The shopper returned to the supermarket later that day in the company of a woman, also from Ukraine. Whilst they tried to shop, the security guards called the police, accusing the Ukrainians of breaking quarantine. After officers arrived, it transpired that the suspicions of the security guards were unfounded. Representatives of Biedronka issued a statement on this matter. They claimed that the incident had arisen because the security guards had acted in accordance with the guidelines received earlier from the local police, which *'unambiguously requested that no Ukrainian citizen be allowed to enter the store, and to call the emergency telephone number, 112 immediately should they try to do so'*. The claim that such guidelines existed was denied by Marcin Maludy, a spokesperson for the Lubusz police: *'What happened was instigated exclusively by the security guards of the shop. I am surprised that a large retail chain is attempting to shift the blame for the activities of its employees onto the police'*.

WARSAW. On 8 April, the programme, *'Express Biedrzyckiej'*, which is broadcast on YouTube on the channel of the daily tabloid newspaper, *'Super Express'*, was devoted mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, a Member of Parliament representing the **Confederation** party, made the following statement: *'Men must be able to kill. If we are not able to kill, we will be slaughtered by the Arabs, by the Chinese, by anyone'*. The host of the programme, **Kamila Biedrzycka** offered no reaction to this statement.

WARSAW. On 8 April, in an interview about sports during the COVID-19 crisis for **Weszlo.com**, **Maciej Purchala**, President of the football club, **Hutnik Warszawa** (of the Polish fifth division) made a homophobic remark. When discussing the financial situation of his club due to the COVID-19 epidemic, he said: *'If the city doesn't help us, and our district surely won't help, as they prefer to support LGBT - then we're going down as a team'*.

WARSAW. On 8 April, **Radio Wnet** presented its listeners with an unusual programme introducing a conspiracy theory pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, advocated by well-known British extremist, **David Icke**. The programme was also broadcast on the radio's website and YouTube channel. In a lengthy lecture by staff journalist **Jan Olendzki**, listeners were asked: *'What connection is there between Silicon Valley, the Davos Forum, the 9/11 attack, and a film starring Jennifer Lawrence?'* (a reference to the film, *'The Hunger Games'*, directed by Gary Ross, in which the authorities force people to participate in a series of mortally dangerous games; the film represents

a vision of communities enslaved by totalitarian dictatorships). In recorded statements by Icke he said, amongst other things: *'What we see every time when something like that takes place - those attacks on 9/11 are classic examples - [...] all this brings us closer to the model of the Society of Death Games [...]. What we are seeing is the approaching realisation of such a project like the Society of Death Games'*. According to Icke, the responsibility for the COVID-19 pandemic rests with a secret global group, described as a 'cult', with which 'madmen from Silicon Valley', the WHO, the British heir to the throne Prince Charles, and entrepreneur Bill Gates are connected. The host of the programme presented Icke's views seriously, and stated that they constituted *'an interesting voice in the discussion'*. David Icke was once a professional footballer and sports commentator, but has long been better known to the world as one of the creators of the most extreme conspiracy theories, many of which have an antisemitic slant. The crux of his theories is a belief in the existence of a race he calls 'reptilians' or 'lizard-people', which includes the former US President, George W. Bush and Queen Elizabeth II. Through the Illuminati order, this group is said to aim to control the world, and the proof of that can supposedly be found in *'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion'*, a widely discredited antisemitic pamphlet published in 1903. The 'Reptilians', Icke alleges, falsified the history of the Holocaust and the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001. On 1 May 2020, Icke's Facebook profile was removed for voicing conspiracy theories in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. On 2 May, the English language channel belonging to David Icke (from which Radio Wnet took its inspiration) was also removed from YouTube for voicing dangerous conspiracy theories about COVID-19. The host of the programme on Radio Went stated that the presentation of David Icke's views took place at the personal request of the radio station's director, **Krzysztof Skowronski**. Skowronski is the President of the **Polish Journalists' Association (SDP)**, and the publication, *'Kurier Wnet'* associated with the radio station received a grant in 2020 from the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, as part of the 'Patriotism of Tomorrow' programme.

WARSAW. On 9 April, in an interview for the **Panta Rhei** channel on YouTube, Member of Parliament, **Grzegorz Braun (Confederation party)** presented xenophobic conspiracy theories about the origins of COVID-19. In his argument he offered the following words: *'Might it be simply an act of biological warfare? [...] If this is an act of biological warfare, is it an initiating act or is it a pre-emptive one? Maybe this is a de-escalation hit that is supposed to freeze the armies or fleets already preparing for conventional operations, in the sense of our idea of a Third World War, in their starting blocks? [...] Who might benefit from it? The Chinese, Americans, Muscovites, Jews, or all of them at once?'* Another conspiracy theory presented by Braun concerned the alleged implantation of chips on recipients of a potential COVID-19 vaccine: *'When the horn sounds a great victory over the coronavirus, then those allowed out of their homes who go straight to the clinics to get the vaccine will at the same time get in their foreheads [...] a mark of the beast in the form of some electronic component permanently introduced into their bodies'*. In the same interview, Braun also made a number of antisemitic statements. He referred to the alleged 'Jewish claims' against Poland. He claimed that *'Ways to pay up the Jewish demands will be found. There will be overpayment for some super extra army equipment; and the very operation to take us out of this crisis, this rescue programme, will undoubtedly cost us dearly. It will be a great opportunity for shearing the sheep once again to the bare skin. Money lenders will come with a helping hand, and they will save us, and the Warsaw government and the President will be only too ready to fall into the arms of the usurers'*.

The comments made by Polish internet users on the video included many antisemitic and xenophobic statements and conspiracy theories, for example: *'Poles will have to pay the Jewish claims'*, *'Under the cover of a smokescreen a herd of rams emerges with a Bedouin at the forefront, they come out of forests and parks, flood our cities, administer The Quran in suppositories and rape dogs'*, and *'The Jews are still waiting for the Messiah, that is our Antichrist. A real apocalypse'*.

POZNAN. On 10 April, Mayor Jacek Jaskowiak issued an appeal to the residents of Poznan regarding xenophobic acts of hostility that had intensified in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic. Jaskowiak stated: *'Unfortunately, migrants of Asian origin are increasingly encountering discriminatory behaviour resulting from ignorance and fear of illness. [...] Let's support each other and not provoke discriminatory behaviour, let's cooperate for the good of all of us, regardless of our origin'*. Comments on the appeal, published on the **epoznan.pl** website, included racist statements and conspiracy theories, such as: *'Ukrainians, Russians, Germans and Muslims are our enemies!'*, *'As usual, he is worried more about the immigrant Arabs than the people of Poznan'*, *'Down with foreigners!!!'*, *'No masks when visiting the chapatis, handshakes when greeting them'* ('chapati' is a racial slur used to describe brown-skinned people in Polish language), *'the leftist ideas of reducing the population are materialising right before our eyes – it was Spurek [a Member of the European Parliament from Poznan] and others who postulated that the population numbers are decreased and here you are – Communist China has helped, as always, by manufacturing the freak virus, and now is making a packet on the sale of masks and respirators'*, and *'but the stuff came from China after all... all this crap is to do with that nation... it's a pity that the mayor concerns himself with such bullshit not to worsen our relations with foreign nations...'*.

WARSAW. On 11 April in a broadcast by the state radio station, **Polish Radio 24** titled: *'What Could be the Socio-economic Results of the Coronavirus Pandemic?'* its presenter, **Robert Tekieli** (former editor-in-chief of *'Brulion'* and currently a columnist of the **'Gazeta Polska'** newspaper), as well as guest, **Jakub Pacan** (journalist of the **'Solidarnosc Weekly'** newspaper), used the COVID-19 pandemic to launch an attack lasting more than twenty minutes on imaginary ideological enemies. Tekieli argued: *'Western civilisation had been oppressed for half a century, a new form of revolution, the rainbow one, the green one, eco-religion. [...] This revolution comes by way of the UN, the European Union. [...] What kind of a world will we have after the pandemic, will the revolution continue to destroy our civilisation, and by what methods? [...] This revolutionary trend is planned; it all leads to some goal. [...] Let's remember that liberalism is an ideology akin to Marxism. [...] There is a multitude of conspiratorial ideas [...], there is the LGBT ideology, the vegan ideology, there is an ideology which is actually already an ecological religion, ecoterrorism. [...] Such words as nation, mother, father, are being destroyed. [...] When we consider the LGBT ideology, it's something disgusting. [...] Such a fight against language began in modern times from the Lutheran revolution, and it can be seen specifically in the Anglican revolution in which the sin by one person, Henry VIII led to the secession of the Anglican church, a schism came about [in 16th century England – translator's note]. This revolution, which has continued since 1968, running through institutions, is, to put it simply, an institutionalisation of sin. These people want to introduce by any means possible a logic of destruction and chaos, by forcing communities to live in sin'*.

WARSAW. On 11 April, the day before Easter Sunday, the editorial board of the right-wing portal, **wpolityce.pl** published an interview with Dr. **Rafal Brzeski**, who is known for his dissemination of conspiracy theories, and was introduced as ‘a specialist in the field of information war’. Brzeski talked about what he saw as positive ideological results of the COVID-19 pandemic: ‘What we are witnessing today, I can describe by calling it «Globalisation hitting the dirt». Because it is just that. Coronavirus has made one big «check you out». The ideology of globalization has failed [...]. Coronavirus has taken out the globalisation ideology and the globalised economy [...]. We should expect a redirection of the economy and a change of ideology’. Moreover, he expressed satisfaction at the number of victims in some countries: ‘Happily, even Russia is beginning to have coronavirus. In two to three weeks it will face a very serious problem’. He also expressed hope for more unfortunate events and more victims: ‘One scenario predicts that a revolution, similar to that of the Bolsheviks, will break out in Russia. Let me remind you that the Bolshevik revolution broke out mainly because of the bloodshed, the huge number of soldiers who fell during World War I. This was the spark that triggered it. The next revolution may be the result of the number of coronavirus victims. Russia may have an even bigger problem than we do. And then this whole provocation by them will turn against them’.

KRAKOW. On 12 April the W Strone Dialogu (Towards Dialogue) Foundation launched an internet fundraiser to equip underprivileged members of the Roma community with face masks and disinfectant in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic. Under a post about this initiative on Facebook, a host of racist comments appeared. The organizer of the fundraiser, Dr. Joanna Talewicz-Kwiatkowska mentioned in a statement to the media that internet users had reacted to this initiative with ‘rage at how we could help Gypsies and not Poles. People are convinced that it is the Roma people’s own fault that they live marginalized. That they don’t want to integrate, have strange customs, that they are dirty, misfits, lazy, and do not like Poles. And if they worked, they would be able to afford masks. Many comments posted under the story had to be removed because they were so vulgar. We wrote back to many, trying to explain that it’s neither culture nor ethnic differences, but the socio-economic situation that has caused many Roma people to live in poverty. [...] People replied that still they won’t change their minds’.

WARSAW. On 14 April, **Radio Wnet** hosted the celebrity, **Wojciech Cejrowski** who voiced xenophobic and pseudo-scientific conspiracy theories about the alleged harmfulness of the 5G network and its connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated: ‘Being close to 5G gives symptoms very much similar to those of Coronavirus. Because water boils inside our bodies. [...] Let’s take a look at 5G in China right now – I am not afraid of insulting those rice eaters because I don’t deal with them – the main city where this 5G was placed is none other than Wuhan’. Cejrowski made light of the victims of the pandemic, talking about ‘Lombardy, where there’s a whole lot of old people and Chinese’. On another occasion on 18 March, reacting to an article entitled ‘China Offers Poland Help with Coronavirus’ on Facebook, Cejrowski expressed his animosity towards Chinese people, talking about a state of war: ‘Such help is dangerous. The Chinese lie and will keep on lying [...]. China is on the attack and this is war and not brotherly help’.

WARSAW. On 14 April, speaking on RDC Radio, Ola Dinh, a representative of the Vietnamese

community in Poland, described incidents which she had experienced personally in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic. She told how she had been abused on the street by xenophobic insults. She had also experienced signs of animosity, such as fellow customers ostentatiously bypassing her when shopping. Dinh, who has spent her entire life in Poland, referred to those incidents as follows: *'Since the epidemic began, it [racism – translator's note] can now be felt much stronger'*.

WARSAW. On 14 April, **Confederation** Member of Parliament, **Grzegorz Braun** posted a recording on his YouTube channel in which he shared conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic. During the recording, he said: *'What is going on here? Do we already have a biological war? Was the virus a de-escalation blow, and who carried out the hit? Was it our American comrades [...] or the Chinese? Was it Bill Gates?'* The MP also suggested that Jews would benefit from the pandemic: *'Is it really just a coincidence that in a state situated in Palestine [a reference to the State of Israel - Braun does not recognise its existence, and therefore does not mention its name – translator's note] great success in the work on the vaccine is being seen?'* He also added: *'We can see that the big winners everywhere, including in our country, will as always be the big usurers because via their hands, the Polish government will impose transactions and assistance procedures to Polish entrepreneurs'*. In his speech, Braun proposed that a certificate be given to people who have tested negative for COVID-19 called a *'certificate of kosher standard'*.

WARSAW. On 14 April, **Radio Wnet** broadcast an interview with Fr. **Tomasz Jachemczyk**, a Polish priest currently working in Liguria in northern Italy. This interview was also presented on the radio station's website, under the title: *'In Italy one may be allowed to go to a library but not to church. Fr. Jachemczyk: one can see here the action of a masonic government'*. Throughout the programme, the clergyman derided the alleged persecution of the Catholic church in Italy in connection with sanitary restrictions caused by the COVID-19 epidemic. In his words: *'under the guise of coronavirus, there is a more or less hidden persecution of the church'*, for which he laid the blame on *'a conspiracy by the actions of the masonic government of Italy'*. In his statement he declined to mention the very real threat posed by COVID-19, which is particularly acute in northern Italy, where within several weeks it had already caused tens of thousands of people to die. The clergyman also criticised Polish regulations which limited the number of people inside a church during the epidemic.

RZESZOW. On 15 April, in an interview with *'Przegląd Sportowy'*, a sports website, **Andrzej Grzyb**, a former Polish national team volleyball player and now manager, presented a bizarre proposal that the next volleyball season take place with the participation of only native Poles, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In his argument, he contended: *'For the benefit of Polish clubs in the next season, participation of foreigners in our games should be kept to a minimum. I am thinking here not only about the players, but also about the coaches and other members of the training teams. I know that my view will soon give rise to a scream among CEOs, volleyball players and supporters, but in my opinion, there is no other way'*. In addition, Grzyb accused foreign players and coaches of causing a recurrence of the epidemic in Poland: *'It can't be that a Pole remains unemployed, whilst the club employs a foreigner. First of all, we must take care of our own players and coaches. Secondly, following the pandemic, the less travel between countries, the better. Imagine the Armageddon that would be caused by the return of foreigners to Poland. Are we going to be exposed to another virus'*

attack?’ He also postulated: *‘There is no point in throwing money at foreigners. It is only April now, so there is a lot of time to terminate the contracts signed previously with foreigners’*. **Michał Adamczewski**, a past coach of the Polish national junior volleyball team, was pleased with Grzyb’s proposal. He stated: *‘The key today is the improvement of training and the optimising of expenses. We will not achieve this by hiring an Italian at the expense of a Pole’*. **Ryszard Czarnecki**, Vice President of the **Polish Volleyball Federation** (PZPS) and **Law and Justice** Member of the European Parliament also reacted positively to these demands. In an interview with *Przegląd Sportowy*, he declared that the proposal to limit the number of foreigners in competitions was *‘worth considering’*, but that it would be difficult to implement for technical reasons. Therefore, Czarnecki recommended that the club authorities take the initiative in this matter: *‘I am afraid, however, that the complete absence of foreign players and coaches is an unrealistic vision. Nevertheless, it is possible of course to think of some restrictions in this regard, but PZPS could not do it arbitrarily. We have no mechanisms, nor are there legal instruments. The clubs would have to come to some agreement on the matter and pursue a common policy’*. Discrimination in employment based on nationality (and also on grounds of sex, age, disability, race, religion, political beliefs, trade union membership, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation) is contrary to both Polish and European Union law.

TORUN. On 15 April, in an interview published on the **Radio Maryja** internet portal (a Catholic-nationalist radio station with a long record of antisemitic statements), Dr. **Zbigniew Halat**, a former Chief Sanitary Inspector and former Deputy Minister of Health, accused the World Health Organization (WHO) of prioritising *‘mainly its own affairs, which are primarily the promotion of LGBT culture, or the so-called gender ideology instead of what it should exist for, that is, combating infectious diseases’*. Halat also advocated xenophobic conspiracy theories about the alleged goals of the WHO: *‘It has always been an organisation serving the interests of the communists – be it the Russians or, more recently, the Chinese. The Chinese especially, when taking over the colonisation of Africa, are using international organisations as a cover for their activities’*. In addition, Halat spoke offensively about the WHO director, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, calling him *‘a well-known Ethiopian with a terrorist past’*.

WARSAW. On 15 April in an interview broadcast on YouTube on the **wRealuz4** channel, **Robert Bakiewicz** chairman of the **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodległości (Independence March Association)** and former spokesman for the **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)** conflated the threat of the COVID-19 epidemic with the that of alleged *‘Jewish claims’*. He stated: *‘It [the question of claims – translator’s note] can be deadly in and of itself, and compiled with Coronavirus will lead to the downfall of the Polish state’*. He also spoke about the necessity of *‘not allowing Jewish organisations to plunder, those extortionists and blackmailers’*. On the same day there happened to be a reading of a number of controversial citizens’ bills in the Polish parliament, including the bill known as *‘Stop 447’*, supported by the **Confederation** party. It pertained to American Congress JUST Act (known in Poland as No. 447 Act), which in Poland is used by adherents of the extreme right as a pretext to propagate antisemitic conspiracy theories. Bakiewicz delivered a speech from the parliament lectern, as the sponsor of the bill, in which he used the term *‘so-called Holocaust’*.

POZNAN. In the second half of April, in the middle of the night, unknown perpetrators smashed the windows of a flat occupied by a Filipino man, who has been living in Poland for ten years. *'It was like a bomb. I got up from bed to see what had happened, but there was nobody outside. We found a large stone in the room'*, he told the media. He notified the police of the incident. A report was broadcast on 23 April on the television channel, TVN24, and that night, there was a second attack on the flat, with stones once again being thrown. According to the victim, both attacks were associated with the COVID-19 epidemic and manifestations of hostility towards people of Asian origin. *'Some Filipinos experience incidents of people calling «corona» after them on the streets! One of the Filipinos was spat in the face and called «Chinese!».* *We are very afraid'* – he said in a television interview. The xenophobic assault was condemned by city mayor, Jacek Jaskowiak at a press conference on 24 April: *'I am appalled that a foreigner who lives in Poznan has encountered such unpleasantness. [...] I am asking you all to treat foreigners with respect. Just because someone is of a different skin colour or has different features, doesn't mean they pose a threat to us. Please, treat everyone kindly'*.

GRZECHYNIA. On 16 April, Fr. **Piotr Natanek**, a suspended Catholic priest, delivered a homily from a self-established recollection retreat in Grzechynia (Sucha Beskidzka county). The homily was broadcast on YouTube. In it he discussed several conspiracy theories relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. Amongst other things, he said: *'We assume that the vaccine and the disease has been invented. [...] When they created **Hitler** – he was created by America and the freemasonry. [...] There is a general plan to reduce the population of the world – this has been implemented for a long time. Abortions, condoms, other contraceptive devices – it doesn't work the way they want, so the problem must be solved in the style of Auschwitz-Birkenau'*. In the course of his tirade, Natanek included an antisemitic slur about Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki: *'What next has our leader of the Sanhedrin thought up?'* (Sanhedrin was the Jewish religious authority in the Greek-Roman era). He also shared a conspiracy theory in the election of the *'so-called new Pope'*. *'How cunning and intelligent these masons are. [...] They chose the name Francis for a special purpose. [...] I have a whole article about it in German, from its front-line outpost, the Rotary club'*. Natanek was suspended by church authorities in 2011 for *'ostentatious insubordination'*. Since that time, he has continued to preach sermons, and broadcasts them via the internet. Many of his recordings reach 50-70,000 views on YouTube. There are some with 400-600,000 views, and one of his homilies has reached 3 million views). The content of these videos has been of an antisemitic character on numerous occasions. The Catholic church has never imposed any further punishment on Natanek, such as, for example, excommunication or expelling him from the clergy.

WARSAW. On 16 April, on the YouTube channel, **wRealu24**, its regular commentator **Krzysztof Karon** talking to host **Marcin Rola** explained his conspiracy theories relating to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the COVID-19 pandemic. He began his argument with offensive statements about Bill Gates, who, as Karon emphasised, financially supports the WHO: *'He is a criminal, a bandit. [...] He was in favour of a certain vision of the world, a barbaric and criminal concept. He has a lot of stolen money, and now he can do whatever he wants and indeed does whatever he wants'*. Karon also suggested, albeit somewhat confusingly, what he believed was the

goal of the WHO's activities: *'From its very beginning it has been an ideological organization',* representing *'those parts of the political left and right that are simply thieves and strive to recreate a global system of looting. In order to implement this goal, operations need to be carried out on people and on society, and an infrastructure must be built'*. According to Karon, *'a breakthrough moment in the history of the WHO, when it defined itself ideologically, was the moment when homosexuality was removed from the list of deviances'*. He proceeded to insult the WHO director, T. A. Ghebreyesus, a native of Ethiopia, saying: *'he has a London-African Marxist base',* and *'this is a case of Pol Pot'*. Karon then stated that the United States did not want to *'withdraw from the pathological course on which it had been since its inception or creation'*. Karon believes that Donald Trump must have realised that *'the white man's world cannot produce what it needs'*. Therefore, the American labour market will *'need to find substitutes for yellow people. The question is whether or not it will be us'*. In his argument, Karon also used antisemitic rhetoric, declaring that the number 447 is weighing more and more heavily over Trump's shoulders, *'and it is very likely that he will sacrifice us to carry on with his own business'* (thus referring to the so-called US Act No. 447, which in Poland is falsely presented by supporters of the far right as an order to honour the alleged financial *'Jewish claims'*). Later in the broadcast, Karon further developed his offensive WHO conspiracy theory: *'If a situation occurs that requires a specific ideological project, this organisation will become an international organisation for exterminating and killing people, since it has no brakes within it'*. According to him, the WHO supports *'the most criminal project that has appeared for many decades: this is the early sexualisation of children, which amounts to nothing else than [...] the animalisation of the human species'*. Karon also stated that *'from the point of view of the human species'* the WHO was a *'criminal'* organisation.

WARSAW. On 16 April on the programme *'W Tyle Wizji' ('Behind TV')* broadcast on the state news channel, **TVP Info**, the host **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** expressed his well-known negative sentiments towards immigrants. When talking about the COVID-19 pandemic, he asked his guest, a Polish woman living in Sweden, the following question: *'They say that the Swedish are a very disciplined society, but they also host a great deal of immigrants – so my question is, do those immigrants behave in the same way? Are they concerned about getting sick? We hear various opinions from the Western countries that immigrants ignore the problem and believe it has nothing to do with them'*. Much to his surprise, his guest declared that when it comes to following the guidelines and safety measures, *'people from other countries are much better mobilised than native Swedes'*. Ziemkiewicz himself had shown himself to be highly careless about the pandemic. On 6 March, he said the following on air on **TV Republika**: *'It's just a flu! It will spread this or that way. This is absurd to close events or an entire town like in Lombardy – this doesn't make any sense. It is a flu and it will find a way to spread. But it's not black death or ebola. People won't be dying on the streets in convulsions. They will just give more interviews'*. On 9 March during an episode of the *'W Tyle Wizji'* programme aired by TVP Info, he commented on the decision to close churches in Italy in the following manner: *'It has always been this way that whenever a plague strikes, Christians flock to churches as they believe in God. But what those Italian bishops say is that God is no more. [...] There's a commandment for that occasion – a Catholic person should once a week attend mass. But if there are no masses in the whole region as the Church left its followers in the lurch and closed up, then what are they supposed to do?'*. Also, on 9 March on Twitter, Ziemkiewicz posted the

following: *‘Fortunately, brothels continue to operate. You need to find some spiritual comfort somewhere when the Church refuses to do it’.*

WROCLAW. **Roman Zielinski**, a long standing leader of the football hooligans of **Slask Wroclaw**, who was sentenced in 2015 for inciting national and racial hatred in his self-published book, **‘How I Came to Love Adolf Hitler’**, has repeatedly questioned online the threat of COVID-19, and stressed that the *‘Jewish threat’* is much more important. He has posted such content many times on Twitter, such as the following on 16 April: *‘I’m so sad to look at our society. A proud nation which allowed itself to be forced to wear some stupid masks due to propaganda. What will we allow next? When they find 447 ways to rob us blind, will we also accept it and pretend it’s for our own good?’* (the number, 447 referred to the JUST Act, known in Poland as the ‘447 Act’, which is falsely presented by the far right as an order to pay alleged *‘Jewish claims’*). In another tweet of 20 April, Zielinski commented on racist conspiracy theories related to COVID-19, asserting that a deficiency of vitamin D (which is produced when tanning) increases susceptibility to COVID-19. He wrote: *‘now we know why the Negroes are not that sensitive to the virus’*. On 30 April, he once again demonstrated his anthropological prowess: *‘I have it in my eyes. A Negro is a Negro, a gypsy is a gypsy. A yellow is a yellow. I don’t see much difference between the Viet Kong, Chinaman or Korean, but I immediately see that they’re yellow’.*

POLAND. On 17 April, the **O2** website, owned by Wirtualna Polska, a host of racist comments and conspiracy theories about China were posted by Polish internet users under an article titled ‘The Coronavirus. Emmanuel Macron: Many Things Have Happened in China that We Don’t Know About Yet’. Here are some examples: *‘Let’s throw the Chinese out of Poland immediately’*, *‘Off with the yellow plague’*, *‘Trump did a good job, I’ve never liked that WHO much, there are too many Chinese and they got bored of their status as slaves, so they want to take over the world!’*, *‘China sends 85% of its production to Europe, these are products for every-day use. And they contain the virus, so China wants to take over the global industry, we should be afraid of them slants’*, *‘We want nothing «made in China». Let’s see what the yellows eat then’*, and *‘There was a prophecy «the yellow race will conquer the world». And it has done it. Starting with the coronavirus.’...*

WARSAW. On 17 April, in a conversation broadcast on the YouTube **channel wRealu24**, Dr. **Marcin Masny**, a journalist, proclaimed conspiracy theories about the root cause of the COVID-19 pandemic. He suggested that in order to discover it, *‘some Cupola of the mafia [meaning the leaders of the mafia – translator’s note] that resides in America right close to Trump, a mafia which in any case has ruled America for several generations, this committee governing the great mafia, somehow came to an agreement with the Chinese’*. At the end of the conversation hosted by **Krzysztof Lech Luksza**, Masny put on a face mask with the words, *‘the pandemic is a scam’* written on it, and repeated this slogan loudly. Masny has been an associate of the editing board of the extreme-right bi-weekly magazine **‘Najwyzszy Czas!’** (**‘High Time!’**) magazine run by **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, and in 2009 ran for a seat in the European Parliament, sponsored by the far right **Libertas** party.

WARSAW. On 18 April, **Polish Radio 24** broadcast a programme with a discussion on the European Parliament resolution on the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic which criticised the policies of

the Polish and Hungarian governments. A commentator, Dr. **Artur Wroblewski**, a lecturer in American Studies at Lazarski University, elaborated at great length on his bizarre conspiracy theories: *'Social and business lobbyists of the Polish opposition, they want nothing except always to simply condemn Poland [...]. This lobby is related to the political opposition and is influential. [...] Does the lobby exist or is it a myth? Yes, it exists as matter of fact. We have world-wide lobbies, such as the pro-Jewish, Israeli lobby [...], there is also an influential homosexual lobby in Brussels or Washington, where various matters can be dealt with if one is part of this arrangement; that's just how life is over there'*. In a later part of the chaotic statement, Wroblewski attacked the World Health Organization, claiming that, like the European Union, it *'is doing nothing'* about COVID-19, whilst its director is a *'Marxist activist of the eighties from Ethiopia'* who now *'sees no problems in China or Belarus, for example in relation to the Chinese spread of this coronavirus'*. **Jerzy Jachowicz**, the host of the programme, responded with approval to these bizarre statements.

RUDA SLASKA. On 19 April, the anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, **Kazimierz Plotkowski**, former chairman of the Silesian Region of the conservative Poland Together party, posted a comment on Twitter with the following antisemitic content: *'Jews can make money on anything and everything... perhaps this COVID19 is a new holohoax [a made-up antisemitic word with reference to the stereotype about Jews allegedly benefiting from the Holocaust – translator's note]'*. In 2018, Plotkowski had posted another statement on Twitter asserting that *'Jews are not humans, they are animals'*. The incident at the time was exposed by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, and Jaroslaw Gowin, Poland's then Deputy Prime Minister and president of Poland Together, announced that the prosecutor's office would pursue criminal proceedings. However, it seems that to date Plotkowski has not suffered any consequences, and is free and able to publish further antisemitic statements.

WARSAW. On 19 April on the **wPolityce.pl** website, an article by Marek Budzisz titled 'Chinese go Home! We will be hearing more of this after the plague' was published, and attracted a large number of racist comments and conspiracy theories. Here are some examples: *'Make the Chinese and the other wogs go home, let them stay there and eat whatever it is they eat'*, *'The Chinese pandemic proved that the communists and masons follow the Nazi ideology and want to get rid of old people. They use other nations to do it'*, *'The Chinese can't be trusted. They are communists. Make them pay for letting out the virus, deaths, treatment expenses and recession'*, and *'Yellow people from all over the world, go home. Chinese go home [the last sentence was written in English – translator's note]'*. The websites administrators failed to react to these comments in any way.

WARSAW. On 19 April, the **wRealu24** channel on YouTube broadcast a program in which the host, **Piotr Szlachtowicz** and his studio guest **Marcin Dybowski** (perennial activist and publisher of ultra-right books and past owner of the antisemitic bookstore **Antyk** in Warsaw) were preaching conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic. Dybowski questioned the legitimacy of the sanitary regulations introduced in the recent weeks and stated, *'it is not about saving our economy, it is about destroying it'*. Here he spoke about the connections of the *'Order of Malta of which member is Mr. Szumowski [health minister – translator's note] with Germany and about their financial support from Germany'* as a result of which *'we are experiencing pressure from the German*

side so that Poland activates its economy with a delay'. Dybowski also stated that the photo of Szumowski with Mother Teresa of Calcutta was a fake (the photo was published online in mid-March 2020 and it had been taken in 1997, when after graduating from the medical university, Szumowski worked in Calcutta a volunteer). Dybowski argued that since Szumowski *'was in India for such a long time, perhaps there is a connection with China there'*. He further warned about *'China's desire to conquer the entire world'*, about the fact that *'Western Europe surrendered to the Chinese capital,'* and about the *'invigilation of the Chinese capital and the Chinese Communist Party in Africa'*. Later in the conversation he said that *'WHO is a dangerous organisation, infiltrated by China and commanded by an Ethiopian communist'*. Commenting on the actions of the Polish authorities in relation with the pandemic, Dybowski claimed an imaginary threat, stating: *'I do not want a situation in which we are to be bought out by China'*. He also announced that China will *'take over'* Spain, Poland *'will be enslaved by the Chinese'* and as a result *'Germany, Russia and China will rule'* in Europe. In this spirit, Dybowski repeated the words of Member of Parliament, **Grzegorz Braun (Confederation party)** about the fact that *'we are threatened with kosher vaccines'* while mentioning alleged depopulation plans by Bill Gates and the UN. He also encouraged people not to wear face masks: *'Poles, be brave and stop being so subordinate'*. The host, Piotr Szlachetowicz questioned the existence of COVID-19 all together. Both interlocutors connected the topic of the COVID-19 with the antisemitic thread of alleged *'Jewish claims'* and the so-called US Act No. 447.

WARSAW. On 21 April, **Krzysztof Bosak**, a Member of Parliament representing the **Confederation** party who is a candidate in the 2020 Polish presidential election, voiced a number of unusual statements about the World Health Organization (WHO) during a press conference. He called on Poland to stop paying its dues to the organisation which is coordinating the international effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. In his statement he said: *'In connection with the prevailing coronavirus pandemic, the World Health Organization has stated that the universal right to abortion is one of the methods which it deems proper to combat the pandemic'*. He called the WHO *'an organisation that is saturated by leftist ideology to the bones'*. He scoffed at accusations of racism made in some countries in connection with the pandemic, connecting them to the closing of borders to immigrants by Viktor Orban, and described them as *'amok with political correctness'*. The recording of Bosak's statement was broadcast on the Confederation party's channel on YouTube. Below the video, numerous antisemitic comments were posted, some of which incited violence, such as: *'It's time to stop financing the WHO. Those Engelkings, Grosses [names of Holocaust historians – translator's note] and Polins [Polin is the Hebrew name of Poland – translator's note], and other stupid leftie suckers who are anti-Polish and act at the behest of Marxists and bank bandits harm humanity', 'Poland will become Polin', 'The WHO is a satanic mafia, created by the Rothschilds', 'You can hear the metal pipe brandished against the lefties', and 'the WHO, the same as the UN, being a criminal organisation, should be delegalised immediately and its members, along with their families, murdered in the most brutal way, so that they feel they have had a wretched death!!!'*.

LUBLIN. A far-right internet TV channel, **Idz Pod Prad (Go Against the Tide)**, linked with the **11 November Movement** (best-known for hiring the former presidential candidate, **Marian Kowalski**), has repeatedly referred to the COVID-19 virus as a *'Chinese plague'*. On 24 April, the channel presented a ridiculous theory of alleged plans for the Polish food supply to be redirected to

China by railways through Russia, in order to cause ‘*hunger and high prices*’ in Poland.

WARSAW. On 24 April, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, a Member of Parliament representing the **Confederation** party spoke on the **wRealu24** YouTube channel. He voiced conspiracy theories related to the COVID-19 pandemic. He argued that: ‘*There’s not at all any pandemic - nothing is happening. It’s just hysteria. We live in a world ruled by half-wits and these hyenas, making money on it by selling face masks here and something else there, are fanning the flames to make a profit*’. According to the MP, the government should not be taking any action to combat COVID-19: ‘*Just like when we had the Hong Kong flu in 1969, the government didn’t do anything. It’s true that 25,000 people died, and the government was right not to do anything because if it began to do something, the count would be not 25,000, but 40,000*’. Later in the interview Korwin-Mikke voiced shocking statements about Bill Gates and his alleged genocidal plans: ‘*They want us to die not on our own, but we must be killed off by Gates, best by abortion. He wants to establish eugenics, but will not allow people to die in a normal way [...]. He wants to kill them himself to reduce the population count to a level that is proper in his opinion*’.

WARSAW. On 24 April, a video appeared on YouTube on the **Multibook** Internet bookstore channel promoting a book by Dr. **Stanislaw Krajski** entitled ‘***Masoneria polska 2020***’ (***The Polish Freemasonry 2020***), published by **St. Thomas Aquinus Publishers**, in which the author presents a conspiracy-heavy vision of history, arguing that ‘*it is the masonic movement that is responsible for the epidemic*’. Krajski summarises his theses, presented in the book, in the following manner: ‘*I began to write this in 2019 and wanted to show how the crisis panned by the Freemasons is getting nearer by giant steps*’. He also stated that COVID-19 ‘*has been used to first destroy small and medium businesses. [...] This is a general rehearsal, the weakening of all structures before the great crash about which I write in the book*’. He also voiced a number of surprising statements about Iceland: ‘*Some things were tested there which are now being made fact in Poland in the last year. This is the land with the greatest population of Freemasons – one Freemason is there for every 100 inhabitants*’. Krajski’s book also contains antisemitic and xenophobic overtones. Here are some selected titles of chapters and sub-headings: ‘*The Rothschilds are becoming the real rulers of Great Britain (and not only)*’, ‘*The attack by Soros on Great Britain*’, ‘*The masonic movement wanted to destroy Iceland. Does it want to destroy Poland in the same way?*’, ‘*Masonic viruses in the Polish economy and politics*’, ‘*The masonic conspiracy and the colonisation of Poland*’, ‘*Limiting the population – the masonic plans to poison water and food*’, ‘*The masonic plans for final destruction of Christianity: multi-culture*’, ‘*Arguments used by Freemasons for the necessity of employment of foreign workers in Poland*’, and even ‘*The masonic movement, the Kabballah and Olga Tokarczuk*’ (Tokarczuk was the Nobel Prize in Literature laureate in 2019).

WARSAW. On 25 April during an online discussion about the potential for the COVID-19 pandemic to cause the suspension and possible rescheduling of matches in the Polish top flight football league, fans of **Legia Warszawa** shared antisemitic conspiracy theories. One of the comments said, ‘*a normal fan is happy, but a gang of KODers* [referring to the acronym, KOD – in Polish: the Committee for the Defence of Democracy, a civic organisation and NGO – translator’s note], *lemmings* [a term used to scoff at liberal-minded people who oppose the current ruling party –

translator's note], and corporations run by Jewboys, insist on making life unbearable for people. Don't pay any attention. Those who dislike people with right wing sympathies, who criticise and spit on our government, are paid lackeys of the kosher newspaper [a derogatory term used to describe the 'Gazeta Wyborcza' liberal daily newspaper], the Axel Springer group and other enemies of the Polish nation'. Another example read: 'I don't give a f*ck because, as [Zbigniew] Herbert [a renowned Polish poet] wrote: «garbage goes with the flow». Here we have readers of that traitor, [Czeslaw] Milosz [Polish poet, winner of the Nobel Prize], but what the hell... people subservient to [George] Soros also write here. You know. These are the effects of actions by the kosher newspaper and TVN [major independent channel]'. Some posts were of a xenophobic character and contained radical political slogans: 'When that redhead [Donald] Tusk [former Prime Minister of Poland] was in power, a great many young people emigrated from Poland and somehow nobody from the government at that time took any interest in them, not even to keep some of them in Poland. It would please those platformers most [supporters of the liberal Civic Platform party – translator's note] if they all left and they absorbed hordes of immigrants to replace them. Aha, so when you finally get the f*ck out of here, put the entire opposition with [Grzegorz] Schetyna [a Civic Platform Member of Parliament] into your trunk. Only take out the fork from his pocket if you know what I have in mind, you lemming full of that KOD shit, watching TVNSS24 [word play: TVN24 + SS]'. Posts also appeared with homophobic content, including: 'You, as a young wildcat don't give a shit about COVID and it's probably all the same to you whether your parents and grandparents will live through this or not. «Congratulations on your brilliance!» You see, not everyone is a fan of the Rainbow Alternative'.

WARSAW. On 25 April, **Grzegorz Braun**, a Member of Parliament representing the **Confederation** party, had a conversation with **Tomasz Sommer**, editor-in-chief of the the extreme-right bi-weekly magazine '**Najwyższy Czas!**' ('**High Time!**') which was posted on YouTube with the title: *Will they brand us with the mark of the beast?* The two mused over conspiracy theories related to the COVID-19 pandemic, citing Hollywood disaster movies and academic conferences warning about epidemics (including by the Rockefeller Foundation) as evidence that the pandemic was planned. Tomasz Sommer saw in these films the 'prefiguration of a world government' asking: 'Maybe the organs of the real power, as foreseen in conspiracy theories, are only now coming out in some manner?' to which Braun replied: 'All this is being fulfilled right now, with an even greater impetus and horror. This reaches with its roots to inhuman theories, for which Protestantism served as the incubator. It should be remembered that Malthusianism, Darwinism, all this would not have come to be without the revolution of Luther and the revolution of masonic lodges in the eighteenth century. They thrived on that ground and attained power ruling souls and bodies. These are people like Bill Gates, and we have to deal with a war which is fought on several fronts [...]. The stage artist, Madonna joined Bill Gates recently. [...] There is talk about looking for a vaccine, but nothing is said about looking for medication that would relieve the discomfort generated by that problematic and legendary virus. [...] And here in our own country and in the rest of the world we hear from unquestioned experts that they doubt the reality of this virus as a phenomenon in human history, and doubt the reality of the pandemic. I cannot divulge the name because my interlocutor demanded anonymity in the course of our internal seminar of the council of the leaders of the Confederation party [...], but the basic facts are a subject of controversy'. Braun went on to say: 'The force of cosmopolitan projects is becoming

real. [...] The question who will rule whom [...], the American – let's use the professional, classical term – Judeo-communism is trying to use the struggle against Coronavirus to get rid of Trump who has done so much for the Jewish cause in the world. [...] We could count all his family's ties. [...] The totalitarian globalists have managed to get their principles to work in most countries on this globe'. He added: 'Bill Gates is heading for a situation in which each person on this globe will need to legitimise his or her existence with a certificate of kosher standard [that is how Braun referred to the certificate of being vaccinated against COVID-19 – translator's note] and to be monitored [...]. In Liechtenstein this pilot programme has already been launched. [...] We are seeing a return to the realities of life which in our world were most recently known in the 1930s in Soviet Ukraine, when internal passports were reintroduced. [...] A comparison between us and the Stalinist epoch shows that we are worse because we are agreeing to all of it without mass shootings [...], because not all are feeling humiliated by the brutalisation which forces us to wear face masks!' In the course of Braun's tirade, Sommer butted in with the following statement: 'In this discussion there appeared a figure with a history of 2000 years, the mark of the beast' to which Braun responded: 'But of course [...], some have already warned that the popularisation of the bar code is a threshold of this hell, of the apocalypse, but now it is absolutely clear that these figures are not overrated, that [...] it is being made true right now before our very eyes [...] that some pilot programmes were already put in motion long ago. There are people who have let themselves be implanted with electronic elements allowing themselves to be localised. The entire technology is already in place. The modus operandi is there and under the pretence of combatting Coronavirus, the stage of infrastructure development is being carried out. [...] It's no coincidence that in the Polish anti-virus shield, 5G masts have appeared to fight Coronavirus. Elon Musk, the next rider of the Apocalypse, besides Gates, Madonna and Mark Zuckerberg predicts the launching of satellites by the thousand, so that there won't be a place where Big Brother cannot see us. [...] This is no conspiracy theory, no hypothesis [...], this is happening right now before our eyes, notice that intensified movement in the sky can be observed each evening [...] you can see the hordes of shining light objects flying with angular speed which is not accessible by airplanes [...]. I recommend looking in the sky in the direction of Ursa Major, I have observed this movement in the last few days'.

WARSAW. On 26 April, the state television news channel, **TVP Info** broadcast a programme which casted doubt over the version of the COVID-19 origin determined by the World Health Organization (WHO). Participants on the programme suggested that the virus had been manufactured in a Chinese laboratory. **Joshua Philipp**, introduced as an American investigative journalist writing for '**Epoch Times**' on the programme which was hosted by **Michal Rachon**, stated that his knowledge 'abolishes the whole theory' on the subject. Polish viewers were not informed, however, that *Epoch Times* is closely linked with the international Falun Gong movement and is often connected with the American 'alt-right' tendency. It has on numerous occasions supported conspiracy theories, including those which oppose vaccinations, as well as actions of the far right in Europe (for example, in Germany the local branch of '*Epoch Times*' is known for its support of the ideology of the nationalist **Alternative for Germany** party – **AfD**). Also connected with '*Epoch Times*' is **Hanna Shen**, a Pole living in Taiwan who has appeared numerous times as a commentator on the topic of the pandemic on TVP Info and other Polish media, such as **Polish Radio**, **TV Republika**, '**Gazeta Polska**', **Radio Wnet**, and the Internet television channel, **Idz Pod Prad (Go Against the Tide)** run

by pastor **Pawel Chojecki**, leader of the **Church of New Covenant**.

WARSAW. On 26 April, the **wRealu24** channel on YouTube broadcast a program entitled *‘Controlled chaos!? Chaos and vaccinations are coming! What about the elections?’* in which the host, **Piotr Szlachtowicz** and the invited guest **Marcin Dybowski** (a long-time activist and publisher of ultra-rightist books, the owner of the antisemitic bookshop **Antyk**) disseminated conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic. Opening the discussion, Szlachtowicz made the following statement: *‘People are beginning to see that in reality there doesn’t seem to be anything in this pandemic and that someone has played a hoax on them’*, to which Dybowski replied: *‘Someone is going to get rich on those face masks while we are still being terrorised’*. He also cast doubt on the very existence of COVID-19: *‘If it were visible, we would assess for ourselves how real it is’*. Later in the conversation, Szlachtowicz presented such a vision: *‘It’s already known that the entire population will have to wear identity bracelets. [...] Where are we heading? How are we to protect ourselves from this?’*. Dybowski answered in a similar tone: *‘If we do not protect ourselves right now [...] in a moment there will be such a situation that someone from the upper echelons will conclude: alright, so it looks like they are softened to such an extent, so frightened that we will now introduce bracelets. The idea with bracelets shows how this can be done if the population can be tyrannised’*. He went on to lament: *‘We are already at this moment disarmed. We are no longer the brave Polish nation of old, which had to be treated by all with respect’*.

KRAKOW. On 27 April, Regional School Superintendent, **Barbara Nowak** tweeted a comment suggesting that the LGBT community is more dangerous than the COVID-19 epidemic: *‘Warnings against the effects of gender ideology and LGBTQ+ are ignored by many, including some politicians of the right. What they call crazy is standard in the West. We will get over the virus fast, but what about gender?’* She then added an unsourced image on which gender reassignment surgery was branded *‘damaging of children’*.

KRAKOW. On 27 April, a witness and a friend of the victims described the racist attitudes experienced by people of Asian origin in the preceding weeks. At the beginning of February, the staff of one of the local restaurants told several customers who had Asiatic facial features to leave the premises. The customers were Chinese, accompanied by a Polish friend. They were ordered to leave as *‘they can have the virus and they make other customers feel uncomfortable’*. In March, a Japanese woman who was shopping with her child was spat on by an unidentified woman. A security guard witnessed the incident, but failed to intervene and turned his back on the victim. None of the other customers reacted either. This story was posted on Twitter in response to a Polish Radio reporter in China, who had warned against racist attacks.

POLAND. On 27 April, the weekly *‘Przegląd’* published an article about signs of animosity towards people of Asian origin, in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic. The text stated that: *‘All these incidents took place soon after the virus spread to Poland, even before introduction by the government of the first restrictions’*. Here are some of the notable incidents:

- *‘On 1 February I was in a McDonald’s when a group of teenagers began recording me on their mobile phones. Words reached my table such as «Corona» and «Chinaman», and when I was passing close*

to them, they covered their faces with their shirts as if they were putting on facemasks and began to cough. When I was leaving, I heard loud sighs of relief. On another occasion, in a doctor's waiting room, in line to be vaccinated, a little girl began to whisper to her mother, frightened: «Chinaman, Chinaman». Maybe she felt a correlation that if she saw an Asian coming to the doctor, it must have something to do with Coronavirus' (told by a Japanese man who has been living in Poland for thirteen years),

- A Chinese woman living in Poznan was accosted by three teenagers who rode around her on bicycles, pretending to cough. Later, a man on the street spat on her,

- 'One day I was riding on a bus to the university when a woman looking close to thirty years old sat beside me. She looked at me and then put on her facemask. She kept staring at me persistently while I tried to ignore her. Maybe she wanted to humiliate me and force me to get off the bus? I did not do that. She took out her rosary beads and began to pray. On another occasion, I was standing in line at a supermarket. Suddenly, I felt that the space around me was emptying. People were going over to stand in different lines' (told by a psychology student of Vietnamese origin),

- 'Towards the end of January, I went with a friend to a pub. At that time the virus topic was still distant, I did not even think of it at all. Some guys looking about thirty years old approached my friend: «Why do you stick with these F*cking Chinese, they spread the virus!» He answered them that I did not come from China but they rebutted: «Doesn't matter, an Asian is an Asian, they're all the same»' (told by the same psychology student of Vietnamese origin),

- 'I was doing shopping at Rossman [...] From the corner of my eye I spotted that a guy standing near was gaping at me, as if he were in a shock. I thought to myself: am I doing something wrong? What's going on? And then I heard: «so, it's coronavirus»... The media carry just one topic every day: the Chinese virus, disease in China. So, I think that when people see an Asian, they immediately see that person as a spreader of disease' (story told by a woman of Vietnamese origin),

- 'Once on a streetcar a junior high school girl, some thirteen to fourteen years old came up to me. She said «F*cking Asian!». When I looked at her, she went away. In my opinion such attacks are the results of panic in connection with the virus' (story told by a Korean man who has lived in Poland for twelve years).

WARSAW. On 28 April, the **wRealu24** YouTube channel broadcast a programme in which Dr. **Stanislaw Krajski** talked about 'freemasons within the Church', and voiced xenophobic statements related to the COVID-19 pandemic. He used the following words to convince viewers that it was impossible to get infected while receiving Communion: 'this question can be reduced to absurdity, that in the order of grace it is the body of Christ, but in the order of nature it is simply bread and that a virus can exist on bread – it is on this principle that non-consecrated hosts are manufactured in small factories and Ukrainians could be there, as well as somebody who is sick with cholera, a tuberculosis patient, or someone with a different disease'. Krajski, referring to his latest book, '**Masoneria polska 2020**' ('**The Polish Freemasonry 2020**'), published by **St. Thomas Aquinus Publishers**, in which he presents conspiracy theories about the 'masonic virus in the Church and a masonic fifth column within the Church', criticised the limitations placed on the number of people present during masses: 'If God wants us to be infected here or there, it is His decision'.

WARSAW. On 28 April, the **wRealu24** channel on YouTube, broadcast another programme pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, which served as a pretext to presenting insulting and antisemitic content. Viewers were encouraged to call the studio, and they voiced such statements as: *‘Poles are a nation ridden with Jews, a nation of Pharisees’, ‘we would have to give up our real estate to Jews, to give it away. And the only way to do it is to pacify Poles. That means to subdue them by any method, as long as they don’t protest and they let anything be done to themselves’* (a reference to alleged Jewish claims against Poland which is a popular motif in the antisemitic propaganda of the extreme right, who allege that the pandemic is serving to divert public attention from that subject), and *‘They got the message from the Mossad bunker with instructions what to do’* (a comment about the government policy during the pandemic). The host of the programme, **Piotr Szlachtowicz** expressed his disappointment at the fact that the owner of a car with a bumper sticker reading *‘Poland not Polin’* is being *‘hailed through the courts on account of his camper’* (the car was shown publicly with others on 27 January 2019 at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum during the commemoration of the camp’s liberation. The director of the museum reported this at the time to the District Prosecutor, citing the incitement of hate on nationalistic grounds, as seen on the car owned by **Krzysztof A.** On 5 July, by the decision of the Regional Prosecutor’s Office in Krakow-Krowdrze, the case was closed. The director of the museum appealed the decision, but the closing was upheld on 2 December 2019 by the Regional Court in Oswiecim).

POZNAN. On 29 April, a Twitter user posted a photograph of a large sign which had appeared near the Pestka shopping mall, reading: *‘Face masks made in China? So this is your capitalism!’* and a Celtic cross – a symbol of the so-called ‘white race’ used by extreme nationalist groups. The combining of anti-capitalist and xenophobic mottos and symbols is characteristic of radical neo-fascist groups, including the so-called **Autonomous Nationalists.**

WARSAW. On 29 April on the **wRealu24** YouTube channel, another conversation was broadcast which contained conspiracy theories related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this time with racist undertones. The video was titled: *‘Shocking INFO from Africa in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic? Are we witnessing a global hoax?’* The guest of the programme hosted by **Marcin Rola** was **Daniel Witowski**, an activist of the **Youth Forum of Law and Justice** and assistant to Member of Parliament, **Tomasz Rzymkowski** (who until recently was associated with the **National Movement** and the **Kukiz’15** party). When Witowski talked about his stay in Senegal, Rola reacted in the following manner: *‘I associate Africa with backwardness where Negroes run around without shoes, there is no health service whatsoever, they have to walk with these water gourds. There this pandemic should be spreading, and the death toll should be high’.* In a later part of the conversation Rola shared a conspiracy theory: *‘Are we not witnessing, first of all such a pandemic of fear brought on by the media, and second of all such a huge, total, global hoax?’* Answering the host, Witowski stated: *‘I began to wonder whether someone could profit from this coronavirus pandemic. Without a doubt I would point to China. [...]. We should consider what the approach of the Chinese authorities is. There are millions of people who could perish, which is no great loss to China. If it afflicts seniors, these would be people receiving old age pensions’.*

SWIDNIK. On 29 April, a homophobic incident took place during charitable work for the county Centre for Crisis Intervention, organised by activists of the Equality March Association from Lublin. Representatives of the LGBT organisation made a charitable gesture of presenting the centre with face masks to protect users against COVID-19. They handed the masks to officials in the presence of journalists who had been informed about the event. When the face masks were handed over and distributed, the head of the centre, **Malgorzata Madry** unexpectedly forbade the journalists present from using photographs documenting support for the centre from the LGBT community. In a curiously worded statement to the local press, she offered the reasons for her decision: *‘Both I and my co-workers were convinced that the face masks were the initiative of a sewing company from Swidnik’*. When asked by a journalist whether she would have agreed to accept the face masks if she had known who exactly would bring them, Malgorzata Madry answered: *‘I don’t know what we would have done’*. The situation was also addressed by the Equality March Association on its Facebook profile: *‘This is how the LGBT-free zones look in practice. It is important to emphasise that the centre had no problem with the photograph, they knew from the outset with whom they were talking, but an hour later the head of the centre called to withdraw permission to publish the photo and announced that she wanted to return the face masks’*. Towards the end of March 2019, the local County Council in Swidnik adopted a homophobic declaration: *‘The Swidnik county is free of LGBT ideology’*. It included an opposition against *‘homo-propaganda’* (an insulting term used in relation to actions promoting the human rights and safety of sexual minorities).

MAY 2020

WARSAW. On 1 May, on the **wRealu24** channel on YouTube, a programme was broadcast in which both the host **Marcin Rola**, as well as his guest **Witold Rosowski** (a Polish-American activist who was a candidate in the 2019 parliamentary elections representing the **Confederation** party) voiced conspiracy theories related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rosowski said: *‘With regards to the virus, both versions, that it was specially designed and set free on us for someone who made this or financed it to profit – this version is just as feasible as the one that this virus simply got out on the wings of a bat from this laboratory in Wuhan [...]. This coronavirus first of all strengthened such groups whose aim is to form a world government. [...] They created such a testing ground, how to do it, so that all power could be concentrated in the hands of one global gang. They carried out a war game of sorts using this coronavirus’*. In his tirade Rosowski also stated that: *‘The biggest profiteer of this coronavirus is the deep state. [...] The aim is to bring the US economy to a state of ruin in order to oust Donald Trump’*.

WARSAW. On 1 May in a programme broadcast on the **wRealu24** channel on YouTube, the pop singer and celebrity, **Ivan Komarenko** voiced conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic and pharmaceutical companies. He stated: *‘This entire adventure which we are currently going through was pre-planned [...] by pharmaceutical companies, including the WHO’*. He added that the emergence of COVID-19 would be an advantage to the pharmaceutical industry: *‘Within a short time, they understood that they could only profit by this, so they started to create a pandemic of fear around it, They asked the government for grants and help in financing. The government after a short time realised that this is really no pandemic at all’*. Asked by the host, **Marcin Rola** whether COVID-

19 was a *'global hoax'*, he answered in the affirmative. Komarenko also alluded to the topic of vaccination against COVID-19, decidedly protesting its future introduction: *'Again those wretched vaccines, under force. How can you vaccinate everybody? How can you run such an experiment on the entire nation?'* In the course of the conversation Komarenko also stated that in the upcoming presidential elections he would vote for **Krzysztof Bosak** from the **Confederation** party.

RUDA SLASKA. At the beginning of May, at a bus stop in Bielszowice, a homeless man was humiliated and brutally attacked by one of the city's residents. The attacker ordered the man to kneel in front of him, bow down and say *'I am sorry to Allah'*. The next day the same assailant attacked the man again, by punching him, kicking him all over the body, and pushing him onto the road. None of the passers-by or drivers reacted to his cries for help. Both assaults were recorded by the perpetrator's colleagues on their mobile phones. Eventually, the police detained **Mariusz B.**, who as it turned out, had some connections with the football hooligan community. The District Public Prosecutor's Office in Ruda Slaska charged the man with *'violation of bodily functions or health disorder for a period, shorter than seven days'* and *'forcing someone to act in a certain way, without their consent'*. The investigation was later analysed by the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Katowice, which revealed *'glaring mistakes'* in the initial findings. As a result of this second investigation, Mariusz B. was instead charged with *'physical and mental abuse of a helpless person'* and *'death threats'*. He was also sentenced to three months imprisonment. In an interview conducted by a TVN reporter for TV show *'Uwaga!' (Attention!)*, the attacker stated: *'A lot of people support what I did. They say I cleaned up the mess and that he [the homeless man] is finally gone'*. The attacks in Ruda Slaska were so-called *'crimes of contempt'*, to which homelessness and other socially excluded people are particularly vulnerable. Those groups are considered by the perpetrators to be *'defects'*, people who are worse, because they do not meet their ideologically motivated *'requirements'* to be considered members of a society or a nation.

BELCHATOW. The May issue of the monthly hooligans fanzine, *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')* ran an article about **Kaszubia Koscierzyzna** hooligans, with pictures taken at various stadiums. In one of them, hooligans presented a banner which called for violence against *'ideological enemies'*. It depicted a symbol of a man kicking his victim on the ground, with the slogan *'Good night left side'*, used by neo-fascist groups.

BELCHATOW. The May-June issue of the football hooligan fanzine *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')* published a collection of pictures with graffiti painted by **Olimpia Grudziadz** hooligans. Some of them had racist content. One contained the slogan *'White boys Olimpia'* and a Celtic Cross. The hooligans had painted the Celtic Cross along with their club name in several other places. One of the pictures showed stylised graffiti of the **Confederate** flag, used by the racist South in the American Civil War and nowadays by numerous racist groups.

POLAND. During the first half of the month of May, the Internet carried numerous offensive commentaries aimed at Silesians and Germans in connection with the high rate of Coronavirus infections in the Silesian administrative district, as compared to other districts. Below are a few examples of comments posted on Twitter:

- *'It's probably because – as expected of Silesians – hygienic and disinfection standards are not being followed, same as Germans, so they have similar infection numbers'*
- *'I don't feel sorry for the Upper Silesian pro-German supporters'*
- *'Hanysy [a once derogatory but later reclaimed name for the people of Upper Silesia – translator's note], as we know, don't like to wash their hands or use water at all if they can avoid it. So [upper – translator's note] Silesia is ill, and the nearby culturally and civilizationally superior Zagłębie region, which has very few cases'*
- *'Silesia should be cordoned off, or else the second wave of infections will spread to the whole of Poland. Today in Krynica Morska I saw cars with Silesian license plates, they will spread the virus everywhere'*
- *'Close Silesia! Station tanks on roads!'*
- *'Wouldn't it be easier to bomb them?'*
- *'Silesia is an abnormality'.*

WARSAW. On 3 May, during a programme about the COVID-19 pandemic broadcast by **Niezależna Polska Telewizja NPTV (Independent Poland TV)** on YouTube, **Wojciech Olszanski** (appearing under the pseudonym of **Aleksander Jablonowski**) made death threats towards a viewer who was positively inclined to vaccinations: *'I will find you and I will F*ck off our head with my French bayonet, you son-of-a-bitch. That asshole, he wants to get vaccinated! It's because of people like you that we will have a civil war here, you idiot, you moron. I talk to policemen, they ask me: Wojtek, what should we do? [...] what'll it come to? I say, we'll be F*cking away at one another. I sympathise with you guys, because you will have to choose in your own conscience whose side you are on. Because of such a shithead who wants to get vaccinated. Go, get yourself vaccinated, kick the bucket, but don't cry for help, you human louse, you cockroach, go, get vaccinated! Go, stick your head up Gates' ass. [...] We won't let ourselves be pushed into railway wagons, sealed and driven to concentration camps'*. In the same programme Olszanski voiced opposition to the so-called '447' Act – a reference to so-called American Act no. 447 which in Poland is used by adherents of the extreme right as a pretext to propagate antisemitic conspiracy theories. Olszanski was dressed in a uniform with national and nationalistic emblems. The former professional actor, who had performed in the Polish National Theatre and in big-screen films, has been voicing racist, antisemitic and anti-Ukrainian views on YouTube with impunity for several years.

WARSAW. On 6 May, during a speech in the Polish Parliament, **Grzegorz Braun**, a Member of Parliament representing the **Confederation** party made threats of death by hanging to the Minister of Health, Lukasz Szumowski, with reference to sanitary measures introduced in the preceding weeks in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic. Braun said: *'Free the nation out of quarantine. If you do it now, maybe you will somehow get away with it, maybe not all of you will get to face the Tribunal of State. Maybe Minister Szumowski will not be hanged from a lamp post by the people of Warsaw on Three Crosses Square'*. Braun's speech was cut short by the Speaker of Parliament, and his threats were condemned by representatives of other parliamentary groups. Grzegorz Braun is an activist of the extreme right, who has been particularly involved in promoting hateful conspiracy theories connected with the COVID-19 pandemic.

WARSAW. On 7 May, appearing on the **wRealu24** channel on YouTube, the programme's host **Marcin Rola** and **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz**, a journalist associated for many years with **Radio Maryja** (a Catholic-nationalist radio station with a long record of antisemitic statements), voiced conspiracy theories related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rola stated that *'many people simply think that this is one big pandemical hoax, designed to destroy nations and their economies'*, to which Michalkiewicz replied: *'Governments are taking on dictatorial powers, at the same time some ideas are implemented, and it's difficult to believe that they were not included in the plan. [...] This whole thing is being directed by someone from behind the scenes because it is clearly visible that the epidemic will end when it will be convenient'*. Michalkiewicz argued: *'Please note that the epidemic caused the coming to life of all the goals of the communist revolution which is rolling through Europe and North America'*. Michalkiewicz also pointed to war against the church as an alleged motive: *'This is a huge step on the road to eliminating the Catholic Church from public space'*. In the course of the programme, Michalkiewicz also called Robert Biedron, a leftist candidate in the 2020 Polish presidential elections *'the leader of Polish sodomites'*.

WARSAW. On 7 May, **Grzegorz Braun**, a Member of Parliament representing the **Confederation** party, appearing on **wRealu24**, a YouTube channel, once again voiced conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic. He referred to, amongst other things, the question of the alleged *'Jewish claims'* against Poland: *'If you think that coronavirus has caused an annulment of programmed interference of the Eurokolhoz [a derogatory term used to describe the European Union – translator's note] in Polish affairs, you would be mistaken. If anyone thought that coronavirus caused the Jewish state and the Jewish diaspora to forget their most insolent claims against Poles, it would also be a mistake'*. Referring to his scandalous statement in Parliament on 6th May in which he made threats of death by hanging towards the Minister of Health, Lukasz Szumowski, Braun once again stated: *'I am kindly and courteously warning that such things have happened in history, and [...] I think that he [Minister Szumowski – translator's note] should find a safe place for himself as soon as possible, best under the prison cell on Rakowiecka street [a street in Warsaw known for the state prison it hosts – translator's note]. There we could at least be more or less certain that he will live to see the moment when he can face the State Tribunal, as well as common courts of law'*.

WARSAW. On 8 May, the singer **Edyta Gorniak** appeared on the YouTube channel, **wRealu24**, which is known for propagation of content which is antisemitic, xenophobic, and insulting towards sexual minorities, and more recently for promoting conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic. In a conversation with the host, **Marcin Rola**, the celebrity explained why she contacted wRealu24 herself: *'I wanted to thank the editors for having the courage to raise the difficult topic of global manipulation, as well as such thorough analysis of current problems. This is invaluable help in upholding a realistic view of the situation, as well as awakening us and broadening our awareness'*. She also added that during the pandemic: *'this material which I have watched on your programmes, and then watched again and again, has strongly reinforced my feelings and my convictions'*. In the course of the interview, Gorniak, when asked by Rola about the epidemic, whether *'somebody is behind this on a global scale?'* replied: *'In a decisive way this is no coincidence, all this that's happening'*. She alleged that the people behind the pandemic were *'globalists'*. The singer declared herself to be an opponent of vaccinations against infectious diseases: *'There is some aim in it to*

intimidate people. I think that it is connected with a law to make vaccinations mandatory. [...] As long as I live, I will not allow myself to be vaccinated. If it does become mandatory, I swear to you that I would rather forsake this world than let anyone inject anything that I do not know into my body [...]. I will not allow my child to be vaccinated, nor will I myself be vaccinated, and if that meant annihilation to us, then hard luck’.

WARSAW. On 8 May, skirmishes occurred in the vicinity of Warsaw Central railway station during a street protest against sanitary restrictions imposed to combat the COVID-19 epidemic. Some of the speakers during that demonstration voiced conspiracy theories, for example: *‘This battle is being fought about 447. We don’t even have any idea what is being prepared for us behind the scenes. They are pitting us against ourselves’* [‘447’ was a reference to the so-called American Act no. 447 which in Poland is falsely represented by adherents of the extreme right as a demand to pay alleged *‘Jewish claims’* – translator’s note], *‘In the autumn, Szumowski [Minister of Health – translator’s note] already planned two parallel epidemics for us’* and *‘We don’t want to be vaccinated! They will F*ck a needle with a chip into our bodies, so that they know everything about us’*. Some statements also connected the spread of COVID-19 with the implementation of the 5G network: *‘They put up 5G antennas, people will drop dead like flies. And what will they do then? They’ll say that the pandemic is back. [...] They will crash into every home and vaccinate each person, even those who do not agree to it’*. A number of public figures participated in this event, including **Grzegorz Braun**, a Member of Parliament representing the **Confederation** party, and **Piotr Rybak**, who had been convicted for burning an effigy of a Jew in Wrocław in 2015. Rybak repeatedly shouted the word, *‘Judases!’* at policemen over a megaphone during the protest.

TORUN. On 9 May, Fr. **Tadeusz Rydzyk**, director of **Radio Maryja** (a Catholic-nationalist radio station with a long record of antisemitic statements) protested against sanitary restrictions connected with the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, stating during his broadcast: *‘This is a cooling down of religiousness. They have created a panic and people have got frightened. They said: don’t enter churches, only five people at a time [...]. I understand that it is important to adhere to certain hygienic regulations, and that health is important, but to us Christians, Catholics, the health of the soul is more important. We have everlasting life’*. Rydzyk also presented a conspiracy theory, asserting that *‘anti-evangelical centres are using every occasion to destroy faith, even now’*. He appealed: *‘Let us not give in in Poland. To me, to my faith it was unacceptable, that they have closed off churches, but left stores open. [...] We must think it over and see where we will let ourselves be pushed – pardon the expression – into a sewage drain of evil’*.

WARSAW. On 9 May, **TVP Info**, a Polish state-run television channel, broadcast a thirty-minute conversation with **Steve Bannon**, an idol of the international far-right movement, and of the so-called alt-right, and former advisor to Donald Trump. The host, **Michał Rachon** introduced Bannon with words of admiration, stating that he was an *‘excellent documentary and filmmaker, as well as the author of one of the most interesting media projects currently in existence in the world, namely the podcast, War Room: Pandemic’*. Bannon presented an extreme, ideological conspiracy theory on the COVID-19 pandemic, using military rhetoric. He stated: *‘The full responsibility for this attack rests with the Chinese Communist Party, [...] responsibility for this terrible tragedy which has*

caused the deaths of over 200,000 people worldwide'. Turning to Polish viewers, he used the opportunity to present China as a scapegoat for economic hardship: *'I am sure that countries such as Poland will feel the results for at least another decade. Please remember that if you've already lost your job, if your employer pays you less because of the present situation, or if you are generally worse off, you should blame the Chinese Communist Party. This is really a serious matter, and I think that every leader in every country in the world should listen when the commander in chief of the US Armed Forces [the President – translator's note] says that we have been attacked just like at Pearl Harbour and this time the Chinese are responsible'*. Rachon then asked: *'So is the Western world at war with China?'*, to which Bannon replied: *'The Chinese Communist Party is in a state of war against the West and has been for the last ten years [...]. The real dark days are ahead, [...] now they are turning to a kinetic type of war. [...] This was like an order of assassination. The death of each person, each nurse, each doctor can be blamed on the Chinese Communist Party'*. He also added: *'I do not believe in conspiracy theories, but I don't believe in coincidences either. [...] The World Health Organization shares the blame. [...] They are 100 percent responsible for each death. [...] Beijing must pay - this has to be forced on them'*. He continued: *'The Chinese Communist Party has bought out the majority of London's downtown'*. He then equated the current Chinese government with **Hitler** and **Mussolini**, with whom a confrontation was inevitable, and said: *'This is our goal, our destiny'*. He also added with pride: *'I am a populist and an economic nationalist'*. Rachon stated that Bannon's podcasts, titled *War Room: Pandemic* fulfil *'the exact same function'* as Radio Free Europe during the Cold War. Neither Bannon nor Rachon mentioned the negligence of the American administration and the playing down of COVID-19, which has contributed to the pandemic in the United States reaching a tragic scale.

LUBLIN. On 15 May, on the YouTube channel of radical right-wing internet television **Idz Pod Prad (Go Against the Tide)** pastor **Pawel Chojecki** (leader of the religious group known as **Kosciol Nowego Przymierza [Church of the New Covenant]**) attacked Polish footballer Robert Lewandowski, while promoting xenophobic conspiracy theories. The channel regularly refers to the coronavirus as *'the Chinese plague'* and promotes a conspiracy theory about its origin. Against scientific evidence, it accuses the Chinese of intentionally producing and spreading the virus. It advocates a military conflict with China and announces, in the words of its head Pawel Chojecki, *'the war against the Chinese communists is starting to take shape'*. In this context, Robert Lewandowski was attacked for having participated in an advert for a popular Chinese smartphone brand. Chojecki has called for a boycott of Poland's national team captain by fellow players and media: *'It is shameful for our leading player, at the moment when a life and death war is underway against the criminals who have the blood of over 100 million people on their hands [...] Mr Lewandowski agrees to be a Europe-wide ambassador for the Chinese communists, it is a shame and a disgrace for the Polish sports, no Polish sportsman should shake hands with Mr Lewandowski and no Polish journalist should pay any attention to his utterances'*. Chojecki failed to mention that as early as March of this year, the Bayern Munich striker with his wife Anna donated one million Euro to the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. In the same broadcast on 15 May, Chojecki attacked the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, Polish President Andrzej Duda, and Pope Francis who was labelled as *'a heathen who celebrates Maoist Leninist rituals together with the communist comrades from China'*. Go Against the Tide is known for formerly employing **Marian Kowalski**, an ex-presidential

candidate, largely gone from the public eye following a scandal. Its founder Pawel Chojecki is a longtime political activist on the radical right and a vice-chairman of the **11 November Movement** party.

WARSAW. On 15 May, on the television programme *'W Tyle Wizji' ('Behind TV')*, broadcast on the state news channel **TVP Info**, presenters **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** and **Krzysztof Feusette** spoke about the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association and its cofounder, Prof. Rafal Pankowski, in a slanderous manner. The motive for this attack was the Association's publication of the report *'The Virus of Hate: The Brown Book of the Epidemic'*. It documents the racist, xenophobic and discriminatory acts, which have been committed in recent months during the COVID-19 virus outbreak. Mocking the testimonies gathered in the report, Ziemkiewicz said, *'I await the time when we find out that we are allowed to hate the Chinese after all'*. He also attacked Rafal Pankowski, by saying, *'There is always one thing we can be sure of, alongside something extraordinarily stupid, rude and anti-Polish, almost always comes the name of our beloved professor Rafal Pankowski, the mentor of the ombudsman Adam Bodnar, who is very proud of him'*. This comment was followed by a mashup of R. Pankowski's public statements in the foreign press, allegedly proving that by drawing attention to displays of antisemitism and xenophobia, he was slandering Poland's good name. Ziemkiewicz went on to say, *'This man travels around the world and claims that we have Nazism here in Poland, violence, blood is flowing, hit squads on murder sprees. In everything that Mr. Pankowski is saying, only one thing is true: I, Rafal Ziemkiewicz, am indeed very famous – be it as an antisemite, or an Islamophobe – I won't argue with that'*. In the following part of the almost 10-minute-long programme, Krzysztof Feusette encouraged viewers to use offensive names to refer to the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association cofounder, by asking, *'How could we refer to Mr. Pankowski with one word, but keeping in mind that children are watching? Polishphobe, Polonophobe? This is a person who despises what is happening in this country'*. Ziemkiewicz supported this, by saying, *'In the language of civilized people, there are no words to describe what this man is doing'*. The broadcast of the *'W Tyle Wizji'* programme prompted many derogatory comments aimed at Rafal Pankowski to appear online. Here is a selection of some of those comments posted on Twitter: *'Such a pathological case of a man sick with hatred towards Poles was shown on «W Tyle Wizji» by Mistery Ziemkiewicz/Feusette. This individual is called Rafal Pankowski and – pardon the language – he shits slander on his own nation wherever he can. And foreign hacks believe every word he says', 'this «professor» Pankowski is always ready to spit hate', 'Pole-eater Pankowski', 'Pankowski is an agent of all the countries of the world...', 'I burn with aggression towards Pankowski', 'What an anti-Polish d*ck', 'To slander his country with a smile on his face. Terrifying'*. One tweet, which stood out, came from **Kazimierz Plotkowski**, former leader of the far-right party **Polska Razem Zjednoczona Prawica (Poland Together United Right)** in the Silesian Region, and known for his antisemitic comments. He tweeted, *'Prof. Pankowski is a murder of Poles'*.

WARSAW. On 17 May, the hosts of the **TVP Info** state news channel's *'W Tyle Wizji' ('Behind TV')* yet again used offensive stereotypes to refer to people of Asian descent. Laughing, they suggested that all Asians look exactly the same: *'A Chinese baritone and a Chinese leader do not differ at all' (Rafal Ziemkiewicz), 'Chinese child, Japanese child [no difference – translator's note]' (Stanislaw Janeki)*, as well as *'Chinese children can't be told apart at all, even if one of them is a boy'*

(Ziemkiewicz). This was followed by: *'In modern times, you can't even tell a girl and a boy apart'*, from Ziemkiewicz, who added: *'Also there are 52 genders and this reminds me of Prof. [Magdalena] Sroda [professor of ethics at the University of Warsaw, and a feminist author – translator's note]'*, thus making fun of transsexual individuals and the accomplished intellectual who supports the feminist movement. In the same conversation, Ziemkiewicz warned viewers about the alleged social dangers of using in vitro fertilization.

LUBLIN. On 18 May, on the YouTube channel of radical right-wing internet television **Idz Pod Prąd (Go Against the Tide)**, the presenter **Eunika Chojecka** along with her father **Paweł Chojecki** (leader of the religious group known as **Kościół Nowego Przymierza [Church of the New Covenant]**) shared conspiracy theories blaming the Chinese for the alleged intentional creation and spreading of the coronavirus. During the programme, Paweł Chojecki claimed the *'Chinese communist government [...] invaded the whole world with coronavirus through the obvious infection of the Chinese and sending them all over the world'*, underlining that *'China infected the world intentionally'*. His daughter echoed similar theories: *'Communist China caused the global coronavirus pandemic'*. His son, **Tymoteusz**, was also present in the studio and added: *'Even a remotely bright person today will know that China is behind the coronavirus'*. During the programme Paweł Chojecki also targeted members of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association as well as Pope Francis, going so far as to say: *'he worships pagan gods. He is a person who claims the Catholics believe in the same God as the followers of Muhammad, so he is a spiritual crook'*.

TORUN. On 21 May, in the radio and TV programme entitled *'Unfinished conversations: Behind Coronavirus's back'*, broadcast on far-right Catholic **Radio Maryja** and **TV Trwam** channel (hosted by **Fr. Benedykt Cison**), the radical right-wing activist and journalist **Wiktor Gadowski** presented his conspiracy theory about the human manufacturing of the coronavirus, claiming it had been created in a laboratory as a result of cooperation of Chinese and American scientists. He claimed Chinese people living in a suburban area of Warsaw, Wolka Kosowska, were hiding the true death toll by getting rid of dead bodies in secret. He sneered: *'so many Chinese live there and no one is dying?'*. He presented his alleged observation that *'the pandemics in Europe exploded near areas known for Chinese business and trade'* (this information is false). At the same time, he questioned the validity of sanitary restrictions introduced due to the pandemic. Fr. Cison supplemented these statements, adding for example: *'there are claims that the coronavirus was invented by insurance companies, so that the elderly would die and would no longer need to be supported [...]. I would also like to return to the theories according to which the coronavirus is the opportunity to vaccinate and implant microchips in the whole of humanity, seven billion people, and all that paid for by the citizens and the countries obligated to carry out these procedures'*. Radio Maryja's founder and leader, **Fr. Tadeusz Rydzyk**, also joined the broadcast expressing his support for *'exposing Bill Gates'* and issuing *'a warning against a global government'*; he also warned against *'anti-Evangelical centres [who] will use every opportunity'*. In the same broadcast, lasting over an hour, Gadowski introduced viewers to the conspiracy theory known as pizzagate, which is the false claim spread by the American far-right in 2016, according to which Hilary Clinton's cooperators allegedly created a human trafficking and child sex ring and met in secret to carry out criminal rituals in the basement of a New York pizzeria. These allegations have been discredited multiple times by credible sources,

but the guest of Radio Maryja and TV Trwam presented them as reliable. The broadcast was then published on the website of Radio Maryja and the YouTube channel of TV Trwam.

WARSAW. On 22 May, in a broadcast on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube the **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament **Grzegorz Braun** gave a particularly passionate homophobic rant lasting many minutes. He criticized representatives of US and Israeli embassies in Warsaw for taking part in ‘*parades of perverts*’ (Equality Marches). He claimed that, ‘*the phenomenon of pedophilia is not separate from the phenomenon known as sodomy, homosexuality, pederasty. [...] It is not an incident, in the world of perverts it is a normal and desired situation*’. He added that the electoral campaign of Warsaw mayor Rafal Trzaskowski had been ‘*a major success for the perverts and promoters of perversion, the promoters of the sodomization of public life*’. Braun alleged that ‘*the perverts*’ are influential ‘*also in the current power structure*’, including in the sphere of ‘*management of state-owned companies*’.

GDANSK. On 23 May, a 27-year-old man attacked a Ukrainian person in one of the city’s stores. The assailant insulted the Ukrainian man due to his country of origin after hearing him talking to the staff. What is more, he screamed at the shop assistant, ‘*Why do our women serve Ukrainians?*’ He then tried to physically attack the man, however he was overpowered (the Ukrainian was a trained wrestler). At some point, someone called the police, who eventually arrested the attacker. He was charged with publicly insulting the victim on the grounds of nationality. The man admitted his guilt and accepted the punishment of the court. The prosecutor decided on a sentence of ten months restricted liberty, which consisted of performing social work.

CZECHOWICE-DZIEDZICE. On 25 May, the media were informed about the detention of two youths who had been harassing and using violence against two mentally disabled men for a period of several weeks. The attackers were placed in a temporary facility for juvenile offenders and charged with beating, rioting and extortion, as well as making criminal threats and forcing the two disabled men to act against their will. Roman Szybiak from the Bielsko-Biala Police Department said, ‘*It wasn’t just about money. There were cases where eighteen or twenty-one old men were beaten for no reason. First [the attackers] ordered them to kneel in front of them, and then they beat and kicked them all over their bodies and in the head. The victims were two disabled young men who could not defend themselves*’.

WARSAW. On 25 May, MPs of the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party **Krzysztof Bosak** and **Grzegorz Braun** used the anniversary of the death of Witold Pilecki (one of the organizer of resistance against the Nazis among Auschwitz inmates) for electoral propaganda containing elements of antisemitism during a press briefing they had organized in front of the former prison in Rakowiecka Street. Krzysztof Bosak, a presidential candidate from the Konfederacja party, called for resistance against the so-called 447 Act (it pertained to American Congress JUST Act, known in Poland as No. 447 Act, which in Poland is used by adherents of the extreme right as a pretext to propagate antisemitic conspiracy theories). He also criticized changes in the controversial law on the Institute of National Memory for ‘*giving in to external power centres*’. Grzegorz Braun, who is also a member of the Konfederacja party exclaimed, ‘*Down with Euro-communism, down with*

Judeo-communism!' These antisemitic statements during the electoral campaign were not noted, nor condemned, by media or the other presidential candidates.

WARSAW. On 28 May, **Krzysztof Bosak**, a presidential candidate from the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party), referenced **Feliks Koneczny**, an antisemitic author of a 1938 book entitled *'The Jewish Civilization'*, in an interview with **Onet**. When discussing sexual minorities' rights, Bosak used homophobic statements such as *'dissemination of the LGBT ideology'*. He also noted that *'Professor Feliks Koneczny would say that mixing of civilisations is unsustainable – it is just a transitional stage before one civilisation dominates the other'* (Koneczny was expressing his beliefs about moral inferiority and the detrimental effect of the *'Jewish civilisation'* on the *'Latin civilisation'* in Poland). Moreover, Bosak defended extremely antisemitic statements made by **Grzegorz Braun** from the Konfederacja party, by saying that they were *'ironic'*. He praised his party colleague by saying that *'Grzegorz Braun won over hundreds of thousands of internet users with his intelligence and complete disregard for political correctness, thereby overcoming the barriers of political correctness'*.

LUBLIN. On 29 May, on Lwowska street, an attacker assaulted one of the city's residents who is originally from Nigeria, in a racist attack. The victim reported, *'On the other side [of the street] I saw a man, who shouted «F*ck off to Africa» and «F*ck N*ggers».* He later ran over, kicked me in the hip and punched my chest with his fist'. This criminal case is handled by the District Public Prosecutor's Office in South Lublin. The Nigerian citizen, who has lived in Lublin for 32 years, said, *'I reported this attack because such aggression cannot be ignored. I also identified the man from a lineup through a two-way mirror'*. The findings of the investigation were not provided to the public. It was the sixth time that the Nigerian has been the victim of racist attacks in Poland. In a media statement he concluded, *'I reported all the attacks. One of the cases is still being processed in court. Four others ended in short sentences for the attackers – they were given either a year or six months in jail. One of these days one of us will die in a racist attack and only then will it be a scandal'*.

WARSAW. On 30 May, **Janusz Kowalski**, Deputy in the Ministry of State Assets and a **Solidarna Polska (United Poland)** party) MP, posted a Tweet inciting aversion towards migrants from Muslim countries. He claimed, *'Deputy of PO [Platforma Obywatelska – Civic Platform, the main opposition party – translator's note] Rafal Trzaskowski was the face of a 2015 idea to receive, on Brussels' orders, Muslim immigrants. On Berlin's signal this politician will accept any number of culturally foreign Muslim immigrants in my opinion. Do you want this?'* Kowalski published this comment during the Presidential campaign, where Trzaskowski was one of the candidates. Appeals to anti-Muslim sentiments have been at the forefront of political debates in the last couple of years in Poland, and are used to achieve political goals.

WARSAW. On 30 May *'Przegląd Sportowy'* magazine reported on a controversial clause that regulated the bonuses for Polish basketball players, who came 8th in the World Championships in Autumn 2019. Despite previous press releases from the **Polish Basketball Association**, the bonuses were to be paid only to those players who signed sponsorship agreements with the official team sponsor **Energia** (corporate group which deals in the generation, distribution, and supplies

electricity). The contracts contained a clause that discriminated against sexual minorities – the players were banned from *'promoting attitudes and ideologies inconsistent with Article 18 of the Constitution, which states that marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman, family, motherhood and parenthood are protected and cared for by the Republic of Poland'*. One of the players commented on the case in *'Przeгляд Sportowy'*: *'it caught my attention immediately. I don't know what would happen if I talked about equal rights for the LGBTQ+ community? I talked to my lawyer and they would probably cut my pay. In the end, I figured I'm going to sign it because I just wanted to get the money! I am not going to lay down in front of a tank on my own'* (the comment was given anonymously).

JUNE 2020

WARSAW. On 1 June, **Robert Winnicki**, a **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament and the leader of **Ruch Narodowy (National Movement)**, posted a comment with some racist content on his Twitter page about the protests happening around the world against systemic racism in the United States and other countries, under the slogan Black Lives Matter. Winnicki called these protests *'total savagery'*. In his post, he advocated for the need to introduce *'ethno-cultural unification'* in Poland, thereby demanding the realisation of a culturally homogenic vision (i.e. without minorities) propagated by fascist organisations.

WARSAW. On 1 June during the programme *'W Tyle Wizji' ('Behind TV')*, broadcast on **TVP Info** (state-owned news channel), the hosts **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** and **Stanislaw Janecki** mocked the antifascist movement and protests against racist violence in the USA under the slogan *'Black Lives Matter'*. This is how Ziemkiewicz announced the topic of discussion: *'Let's perpetrate some racism and show what the leading race is up to in the United States'*. During the fourteen-minute broadcast, both commentators, in line with a bizarre Tweet from US President Donald Trump, portrayed the antifascist movements as a threat to society. During their conversation, they played videos of riots on the streets and looting, which supposedly involved antifascists. In reality, however, information about where and when these recordings were made was not released to the public, and their purpose was to both incite emotions and frame the people involved in the fight against racism in a negative and false light. During the programme Ziemkiewicz referred to, *'The dumb ones from Antifa, who sort of defend black people'*. In turn, Janecki, commenting on an interview with a black man from the USA, called him a *'tanned gentleman'*. At one point Ziemkiewicz misspoke and said *'what is happening in Africa'* instead of *'America'*, which cracked up both commentators, and Janecki upheld the racist conversation claiming, *'I don't know if that's not significant'*. Furthermore, the broadcast used the song *'Antifa'* by Pidzama Porno as its musical background, without the knowledge or approval of the band. The band's leader Krzysztof 'Grabaz' Grabowski publicly voiced his disapproval of the situation. The song *'Antifa'* can also be found on the mixtape *'Music Against Racism'* published in 1997 by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association. This song has become the antiracist anthem of the youth.

WARSAW. On 2 June the capital's media reported that a construction site worker had drawn a swastika on the facade of a building near Goclaw subdistrict. One of the residents of the housing

estate witnessed the incident and called the police. The officers arrested a 32-year-old man who was charged with promoting fascism. The perpetrator accepted a sentence of eight months restricted freedom, which involved performing three hours of social work each month.

WARSAW. On 5 June, the **wRealu24** channel on YouTube broadcast a program entitled: *‘George Floyd had coronavirus and was high on drugs!’ in which the host, Krzysztof Lech Luksza* degraded George Floyd (a Black American killed on 25 May, 2020 by a policeman in Minneapolis, Minnesota). *‘What was interesting, was that the victim was positively diagnosed as having coronavirus and it’s just weird that this death was not attributed to COVID-19’*, he jeered. He went on to emphasize that, *‘The leftists are making a hero out of a person of doubtful behavior, [...] he was simply a drug addict’*. Luksza continued, adding, *‘The American community has much worse drugs in its blood, that is political correctness and democracy’*. Citing the **PrawicowyInternet.pl** (right-wing website) he showed fake videos with racist undertones, with titles such as, *‘Negro accosts white women, orders them to kneel down and apologize’*. Wearing the badge of Fighting Poland (the symbol of the Polish Underground State and Poles’ resistance during World War II) in his buttonhole, Luksza ridiculed people protesting against racism and fascism, saying, *‘I don’t know whether Poland any kind of racism exists in Poland. First of all we don’t have any Negro minority here, [...] there is no fascism in Poland and never has been’*. He quoted a statement by **Robert Winnicki**, a **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament and the leader of **Ruch Narodowy (National Movement)**, who had pointed to *‘immigration ghettos, ghettos of influx communities as a threat to ethno-cultural cohesion’*.

Similar shows were aired by the wRealu24 internet TV channel every day for an entire week. For example on 4 June, the show hosted by Luksza was entitled *‘SHOCK! Whites are apologizing for the color of their skins. Final downfall?’* Also on 4 June **Marcin Rola**, the channel’s chief, in a program bearing the title *‘We reveal who George Floyd really was’*, argued that George Floyd was *‘a curious case’*, *‘total degenerate’* and *‘porn film actor’*, stating that *‘an almost saint is being made out of a drug addict and bandit’*. Rola maintained that Floyd’s death was a planned provocation: *‘It is a known fact that globalists are behind this. Mr. George Soros had this all finely planned out, in other words, let’s sacrifice a porn actor, let’s make one great worldwide stink and soon it will make its way to European cities [...]. This is one big event arranged by Soros and all these different globalists with the express aim of destroying national countries. [...] I am absolutely convinced that all this is the work of global capitalism, of people like Soros. They are out to oust Trump, they are global lefties, global Marxists’*.

Since 2018, the studio of extreme right-wing wRealu YouTube channel has been located in the historical Warsaw PASTA building (pre-war telephone exchange), a symbol of the Warsaw Uprising (1944), situated next to the border of the former Warsaw ghetto. The ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association has on numerous occasions protested against the use of this building to voice hate speech, while the local Warsaw government remains passive.

WARSAW. On 6 June in front of the Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, prior to the start of a performance by right-wing satirist **Jan Pietrzak**, a man in the audience hit Dominika

Sitnicka – a journalist from OKO.press (a Polish website specialising in investigative journalism). Sitnicka was there to document the aggressive behaviour of some audience members, towards a group of people who were demonstrating in front of the venue by holding a rainbow flag (symbol of the LGBT community). The activists were protesting against Pietrzak, who had expressed his far-right political views on multiple previous occasions, and is known for making nationalist statements on the state news channel **TVP Info**). Fans of Pietrzak tried to take the rainbow banner away from the protesters, shouting, ‘Get out of here, **Hitler** was LGBT’, ‘F*ck off to Berlin’, and also threatening them in multiple ways. This included saying, ‘If you don’t want to end up in a hospital, go away’. Sitnicka reported that, ‘When one of the men moved towards me, I didn’t expect him to hit me. He punched me in the chest so hard that for a moment I couldn’t catch my breath. I was in shock. I did not know what was happening. These people were pumped up, aggressive, they felt attacked by our very presence. Later, we were also approached and called names by people wearing T-shirts made by **«Gazeta Polska»** [a Polish right-wing weekly newspaper – translator’s note]’.

WARSAW. On 7 June, on the programme ‘**W Tyle Wizji**’ (**‘Behind TV’**) broadcast on the state news channel, **TVP Info**, the hosts **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** and **Stanislaw Janecki**, devoted the majority of the hour-long broadcast to mocking worldwide protests against racism following the tragic death of George Floyd (a Black American killed on 25 May, 2020 by a policeman in Minneapolis, Minnesota). Ziemkiewicz falsely described the protests as such: ‘*The main point is to humiliate white people, so hit squads are running around, attacking white people on the streets, making them kneel, and if they don’t comply, they beat them up*’. He also complained that ‘*the memory of the Civil War shows the stupidity of the current progressive discourse*’ and he claimed, in contrast to historical facts that the American Civil War ‘*wasn’t about slavery at all*’. He also expressed pain over the destruction of statues of racist veterans by ‘*idiots from Antifa*’. After 20 minutes, an audience member who identified himself as **Dariusz Gora**, called the TV studio and claimed to have become a racist after years spent living in Scotland. Both hosts showed understanding, and Ziemkiewicz added, ‘*Let’s leave our audience with this conclusion, that the more you fight racism the more of it there is, because that’s the rule*’. Janecki added, cryptically, ‘*We’re currently going over this with other handicapped people, I won’t name them, or they’ll call us racists too*’. Ziemkiewicz summed up the discussion with the scandalous claim, ‘*Whenever someone starts to talk about tolerance, it is almost certain he will soon be trying to cut someone’s throat*’.

WARSAW. On 10 June, on the airwaves of state-owned channel **TVP Info**, the ‘**NEVER AGAIN**’ Association was the topic of offensive comments following its criticism of the sales of **Rafal Ziemkiewicz’s** new book ‘**Unrebellious Thug**’, which includes strongly antisemitic passages and questions ‘*the myth of the Holocaust*’. Ziemkiewicz did not participate in the programme, but he is the host of another show on the same state-owned TV channel.

The anchor, **Michal Rachon** stated, ‘*it’s a horrible country where there is censorship and a list of forbidden books*’. A similar phrase was used subsequently in film material on the show (‘*the book sales were stopped on the basis of a list of forbidden books prepared by the leftist Association «NEVER AGAIN»*’). In the same vein, negative comments about ‘**NEVER AGAIN**’ were repeated by all of the other commentators in the studio, movie actor **Jaroslaw Jakimowicz** (‘*It’s censorship, it is horrible*’) as well as right-wing pundits **Jacek Wrona** and **Jacek Liziniewicz**. In his comment,

Wrona linked 'NEVER AGAIN' to an African refugee who had been accused of spreading HIV in Poland and died in 2008. Liziniewicz praised Ziemkiewicz as a popular author.

The attacks described above lasted for about 5 minutes on national TV during the evening broadcast.

TARNOW. On 11 June, Radio Krakow reported that some '*unknown perpetrators*' had once again desecrated one of the walls of the Jewish cemetery. They crossed out the Star of David that was decorating the facade of the cemetery and painted the abbreviation 'AJ' (*Anti Jude*), a phrase popular amongst football hooligans) next to it.

WARSAW. On 12 June, on the airwaves of the right-wing **Telewizja Republika (TV Republic)** channel, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** (who was also a commentator on public television channel **TVP Info**), once again used derogatory language when speaking about the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association. The broadcast concerned his new book '*Unrebellious Thug*'. The book argues that, '*Jews are working to earn themselves a new Holocaust or, at least, a new wave of pogroms*', and was publicly criticized by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association for its antisemitic content.

In the televised response, Ziemkiewicz lashed out at 'NEVER AGAIN' as '*an association of leftist fanatics*' and '*censors*'.

WARSAW. On 18 June, in an interview broadcasted on **wReal24** (online TV) on YouTube, **Krzysztof Bosak** – a presidential candidate and member of far-right political party **Konfederacja (Confederation)**, concluded the events held in the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum to marking the anniversary of the first deportation of Polish prisoners to concentration camps (14 June 1940) by making offensive remarks. He spoke about the allegedly '*extremely anti-Polish leadership of the Museum*' and '*extreme political correctness hooked on Judeophilia or Philosemitism on the part of the Polish government*'. Continuing his antisemitic insinuations, he denounced '*some kind of, perhaps not legal, but political extraterritoriality of the Auschwitz Museum from the structures of the Polish state. This is something that we should not agree to*'.

Later in his speech, Bosak propagated a bizarre xenophobic vision, claiming that '*The Western world prohibits Catholic, traditional, conservative and nationalistic views. If they wish to destroy themselves as nations, fine by me. Let them extract a hundred million more immigrants. There are plenty of them in Africa and Asia. Let them commit cultural, social and national suicide*'.

OTWOCK. On 19 June, in a local restaurant, a customer attacked a woman for wearing a rainbow face mask (to show support for the LGBT community and protect herself from COVID-19), and for having a tattoo with the same symbol on her forearm. Previously, whilst waiting in line, after the woman had asked him to keep a safe distance, he screamed homophobic insults at her. After leaving the restaurant, she was followed by the man and his friends. He shouted, '*Remember, no faggot will tell me what to do!*' grabbed her facemask and poured a drink in her face. The victim was helped by the restaurant's security guards, who stopped the attacker and called the police.

WARSAW. On 19 June, in Praski Park some '*unknown perpetrators*' attacked a group of teenagers for homophobic reasons. '*In the main alley, we came across a group of four to five people that were way older than us. Many of us were dressed in colourful clothes. We definitely stood out, which*

became a pretext for the attacks. They insulted us. We heard something like: «a group of faggots» – reported a fourteen-year-old boy who was also beaten by one of the men. He was kicked in the back and hit in the face. The boy's mother publicly stated that she tried to report the incident to the District Police on Jagiellonska Street, but was denied the ability to do so.

GDANSK. On 20 June, an unidentified person attacked a man from Egypt. He yelled at him, *'Get out from here, you black w*ore'* and punched him in the face. He also tried to stab him with a knife. The attacker was stopped by his acquaintance, who was accompanying him, and they both fled the scene. The Egyptian man called the police.

WARSAW. On 21 June, right-wing propagandist **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz**, for many years connected with **Radio Maryja** (a Catholic-nationalist radio station with a long record of antisemitic statements), posted a video on his YouTube channel which encourages violence towards nonheteronormative individuals. Asked by one of the listeners, *'What do you think about the idea of placing rainbow benches around Warsaw and why would it be justified to destroy such a bench?'*, Michalkiewicz answered, *'It pains me to hear that Warsaw will have rainbow benches, because this obviously has the same goal as the rainbow on the Savior Square [a place in Warsaw where in 2012 an artistic construction in the form of a giant rainbow made of artificial flowers was built. It was vandalized several times in homophobic attacks – translator's note]. Just like this the benches are there for a type of training, to make people get used to the dictatorship of sodomites and «gomoryci» [derogatory slur used to refer to gay people, drawn from the biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah – impossible to be accurately translated]. The whole nation is being trained by a bunch of perverts. That cannot be allowed, and we must start a war against these perverts, the carriers of this ideology. And war means war – there must be casualties. We must be aware that nothing can be achieved here without sacrifices'*.

SZCZECIN. On the night of 22/23 June *'unknown perpetrators'* devastated a mural, painted under the Castle Route Bridge (Trasa Zamkowa) in a gesture of solidarity with sexual minorities. It depicted excerpts of love letters exchanged between a writer Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz and a Navy Captain Jerzy Bleszynski in the years 1954-1959. During the official unveiling of the mural (19 June) Prof. Inga Iwaszow emphasized that *'Jaroslaw often heard such things said about him. He was called the «first faggot of Poland» and it was not pleasant. He was harassed and intimidated'*. The graffiti commemorating the writer was restored, however, on the night of 24/25 September *'unknown perpetrators'* destroyed it for the second time. Local social activists renewed the mural and it was unveiled once again on 26 September. In light of this occasion a meeting was organised to discuss Iwaszkiewicz and the omission and invisibility of LGBT people in the official discourse.

WARSAW. On 23 June, a commentator of the state news channel **TVP Info**, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, in a conversation with **Monika Jaruzelska** (daughter of the late Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's last communist leader), which was published on her YouTube channel, publicly questioned the number of Holocaust victims widely accepted in historiography, and also referenced Holocaust deniers. He claimed that Black Americans *'generally hate Jews [...], because they believe the center of the universe, when it comes to suffering, was the slave trade, now that was the biggest crime in history,*

not some Holocaust, and they think 100 million of them died as a result of slavery. This is nonsense, just like the 6 million, a number invented on the spot, Holocaust victims. And no one is counting this anymore, because even when you're just trying to get the facts straight, you're already a Holocaust denier – I already am'. During the conversation, Ziemkiewicz also used the antisemitic derogatory canard 'Judeo-Communism (in Polish: 'Zydokomuna'). The programme's host Monika Jaruzelska did not protest when Ziemkiewicz was sharing his theories, and at one point asked this bizarre question using the term 'the Holocaust myth', suggesting a historic Polish-Jewish rivalry: 'Why couldn't we also build a Holocaust myth? [...] The Jewish nation, allegedly, suffered the most, but Poles were also the second most harmed'. Monika Jaruzelska has been a member of the Warsaw city council since 2018 – the only representative chosen from the list of Lewica (the Left party); she brought up her activity in the council during the conversation. In 2020, she expressed her newly changed ideology, extending invitations to appear on her programme to multiple far-right activists and propagandists (including **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz** – a right-wing propagandist associated for many years with **Radio Maryja** – a Catholic-nationalist radio station with a long record of antisemitic statements, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** – a Member of Parliament representing the far-right **Konfederacja – Confederation** party, Rafal Ziemkiewicz and others).

WARSAW. On 23 June, on the programme '**W Tyle Wizji**' ('**Behind TV**') broadcast on the state news channel, **TVP Info**, the host **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** shared a scandalous comment, in which he blamed Jews for the extermination of their own nation during World War II. He said, '*There's such a hype, that saying it is not allowed, that you can even get sent to jail for negating the Holocaust, but why does it only work one way? For negating that the Germans are responsible for the Holocaust. If Mr. Grabowski [Jan – historian, cofounder of the Polish Center for Holocaust Research of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences – translator's note] really wants to, he can go, so as not to take the responsibility of the Jews from them, because it wasn't Poles who put Jews into train cars, hunted them down, escorted them out of the Ghettos, but it was other Jews, Jewish police, based on lists issued by the Jewish Judenrat, who managed it all*'. Ziemkiewicz also claimed that Grabowski '*faked every resource*'. The co-host **Dorota Losiewicz** added that he is '*a common pest*' and that he '*[speaks] heresy and psycho nonsense [...] and even has a degree*'. Ziemkiewicz also attacked Prof. Jan Tomasz Gross (a sociologist, political scientist, and historian who authored the books '*Neighbours. The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne*'), saying that he displays '*signs of possessing some kind of a mental illness*'. The programme '**W Tyle Wizji**' is a frequent medium for the offhand offence and humiliation of selected people and social minorities, mostly carried out by Ziemkiewicz as the host of the programme, and sponsored by government funds.

WOJKOWICE KOSCIELNE / PODWARPIE. On 25 June, the editors of the portal **cmentarze-zydowskie.pl** (a portal devoted to Jewish cemeteries) informed the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association of an antisemitic sign on a huge banner displayed on the road between Wojkowice Koscielne and Podwarpie in Bedzin region. The offensive slogan on the banner was directed at one of the candidates for the presidency of the Republic of Poland, and read: '*Trzaskowski is a Jewish scab*'. At the end of June, a similar sign appeared on a banner in **SOSNOWIEC**. The Polish word '*parch*' ('*scab*') has been a contemptuous term for Jews since the 19th century. Antisemitic invectives and

conspiracy theories were used in the election campaign to discredit political opponents.

GDANSK On the night of 25/26 June, on city bus line N4, an aggressive man screamed ‘*F*ck the fags!*’, and ‘*Faggots and gays must be afraid!*’ He also approached other passengers, shouting in their face, ‘*Are you a faggot?!*’

KRAKOW. On 27 June, in a grocery store in Mistrzejowice district, one of the customers attacked a Belarusian security guard, who asked him to leave the store because he was not wearing a mandatory face mask. The moment the attacker figured out the security guard spoke Russian, he shouted ‘*F*cking Ukrainian! He wants to f*cking rule Poland! He wants to f*cking decide who can enter and who can’t.*’ He also spat on the Belarusian several times. On 2 July, the police detained the 37-year-old assailant. The District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Krakow-Krowdrze charged the man with public insult on the basis of nationality.

BIALYSTOK. On 28 June, after the top flight match between **Jagiellonia Bialystok** and Lechia Gdansk, a few local hooligans shouted racist slurs at Jagiellonia’s captain, Tarasa Romanchuk (a Ukrainian). Men sitting in a VIP lounge rented by a local company, Kotnitz yelled ‘*you’re not Polish!*’ and ‘*go back to Ukraine!*’. The Board of Kotnitz issued a statement and apologised. Romanchuk was granted Polish citizenship in 2018 and wanted to play for the Polish national team.

LEGNICA. On 29 June on Rzeczpospolita street, a group of football hooligans threw eggs at social activists who were removing homophobic and racist signs from a fence surrounding an old military unit. Next to those signs was a symbol of a Celtic cross (which is supposed to symbolise white supremacy). Pawel Palcat, an actor from the Modrzejewska Theatre in Legnica commented on the hooligans’ aggressive behaviour: ‘*I have no doubt that the signs will reappear. I am also afraid that next time instead of eggs they will be throwing stones. But I will not give up. This is not allowed. Never, to anyone.*’

WARSAW. On 29 June, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, a commentator for the public station **TVP Info**, posted another defamatory statement about sexual minorities and artists in Poland on his Twitter account. When commenting on the presidential election campaign, Ziemkiewicz suggested appointing **Grzegorz Braun** (the **Konfederacja – Confederation** party MP known for antisemitic and homophobic statements) or **Robert Bakiewicz** (a former far-right **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny – National Radical Camp** member) as the Minister of Culture in order for Andrzej Duda to gain votes from the Konfederacja party candidate **Krzysztof Bosak**. Later in his statements, Ziemkiewicz added an offensive comment: ‘*I smile at the thought of them finally taking care of these f*ckers and their homo-communist agenda.*’ He did not face any consequences from TVP Info, although according to the Code of Media Ethics of TVP, ‘*Journalists should consider social media as a form of public statement, and should remember that he or she represents TVP, and the private comments of journalists known to work with TVP can be considered as supported by TVP*’ (Section XVI.3).

WARSAW. On 30 June, a commentator for the public station **TVP Info Rafal Ziemkiewicz** published the following statement on Twitter: ‘*According to the same logic, Ebola is proof that*

Africans have to be exterminated and HIV proof that homosexuals have to be exterminated'. His statement came in response to the words of Sylwia Spurek – a member of the European Parliament – who advocated giving up meat consumption (Spurek talked about the fact that today's farming conditions cause new viral diseases to appear in animals, which can also be dangerous for humans). In his commentary, using a mocking tone, Ziemkiewicz identified Africans with the Ebola virus and homosexuals with HIV, attributing both groups with the spread of these diseases and their very origins. In addition, what is particularly shocking, is that he publicly mockingly considered the possibility of exterminating specific human groups. He did not face any consequences from TVP Info, although according to the Code of Media Ethics of TVP, *'Journalists should consider social media as a form of public statement, and should remember that he or she represents TVP, and the private comments of journalists known to work with TVP can be considered as supported by TVP'* (Section XVI.3).

JULY 2020

KRASNYSTAW. On 1 July, one of the city's residents racially insulted an Egyptian man – the owner of the restaurant Golden Pyramid. The police were called to the scene shortly after the incident took place. The officers arrested 33-year-old **Kamil M.**, who was charged with public insult on national, ethnical, racial and religious grounds. This was yet another example of a racist attack committed against the Egyptian man (who is part of the Coptic Christian Church), over the past few years.

BELCHATOW. The July-August issue of the football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice'* (*'It's Us Fans'*) published a story about **Olimpia Grudziadz** fans, with pictures taken at some of their matches. One of them presented the Olimpia hooligans posing with a racist flag with the slogan *'White warriors. For the race, for the blood'*, along with a Celtic cross.

BELCHATOW. The July-August edition of the football hooligan fanzine *'To My Kibice'* (*'It's Us Fans'*) featured an interview with three fans of **Korona Kielce**, who condoned the protests they partially organised against employing black players in their football club. This is how they reported on these racist acts: *'When a black player started playing for Korona [Frankline Moudoh from Cameroon – translator's note], that's when the first protest happened, it was on the 6 March 1999 during a match with Unia Tarnow. We only displayed a banner saying «You must go away N*gger, Korona's only white club». Of course, we weren't cheering for our team but only entertained «our» new player'*. The second racist protest took place when Korona merged with Blekitni Kielce. In an interview with *'To My Kibice'*, Korona hooligans described the events as follows: *'Our club knew not to recruit black players, but here it was automatic. [...] N*gro appeared on the field a couple times and had bananas thrown at him, so he ended up giving up and leaving Korona'* [the player described was Salio Dieye from Senegal – translator's note]. Later in the interview the hooligans described the aftermath of their racist boycott: *'It can be called a success because N*gro stopped playing. He terminated his own contract with the club but for us it was most important that he wasn't actually on the field. I'm sure the club had an easy choice to make regarding other previous N*gro's thanks to our stance'*. Similar incidents took place with regards to Hernâni from Brazil, who joined Korona in 2005. In the interview, they complained that their protests did not yield results: *'As time went by,*

our white formation lost its power'. They also claimed that: *'their structures still consist of people who refuse to come to the stadium when some N*gro plays for Korona, and instead watch the matches in a pub'*. The interview was illustrated with a photograph of a flag displayed at the stadium with a sign that read: *'BHBD'* (an acronym for lyrics of a popular stadium song by a neo-Nazi group **Konkwista 88**: *'White honour, white pride'*). The hooligans talked about this racist flag, which had been displayed during Korona's matches for years: *'It is a symbol of a resistance movement of sorts that took place here. [...] We have left it as this kind of icon. It's our most important flag, our talisman'*.

BELCHATOW. The July-August edition of the football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice'* (*'It's Us Fans'*) featured a discussion on a 'hooligan's zine' titled *'Obsession'* and some of the articles scanned from it. The scans featured an illustration accompanying one of the texts, which depicted a symbol called Totenkopf (a characteristic skull) that was used by concentration camp guards during World War II. In one of these photographs someone was posing with a Totenkopf badge in front of a Nowa Sarzyna town sign. The author of the zine's review was the editor in chief of *'To My Kibice'*, **Michal Strzelec** alias **Tifosifoto**. In his article, he made a preposterous, xenophobic claim: *'And you know what is sad about it all? That out of 100 copies [of the zine «Obsession» – translator's note], 30 went to the Germans. Get it – Germans, who do not know the language are buying a Polish zine [...]. That's how big the hype for hooligans is over there... But yeah they are cu*ts. I forgot'*.

KRAKOW. In the early morning of 4 July, at St. Filip Street, five people standing in front of a gay club, were attacked by two men. *'We talked, we laughed. Many of us were dressed in colourful clothes. Earlier that evening we were attending a vernissage. In the corner of my eye, I noticed two men with sticks walking in our direction. Somehow it didn't occur to me, that we should be afraid'*, reported a female victim. The attackers started to hit the victims indiscriminately. One of the men was hit seven times on his head with a stick. As a result, he was hospitalised with a cut above his temple requiring stitches. Two other members of the group were also approached. The woman managed to dodge the attacks, avoiding the injury, but her partner was hit several times with a stick. The attackers then fled the scene. According to the victims, the attack occurred because the men considered them to be part of the LGBT community.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 5 July during a second division football match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** and Radomiak Radom, local hooligans displayed a banner which calling for violence against 'ideological enemies': it depicted the often-used symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with a slogan often used by neo-fascists, *'Good night left side'*.

MALEC. On 5 July during a local Polish Cup final between Zgoda Malec and **Hejnal Kety**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner with a Celtic cross, a symbol of so-called white power.

WARSAW. On 6 July, a section entitled *'Inborn pride and German conceit'* was broadcast on YouTube the right-wing channel **Telewizja Republika (TV Republic)**. In the video, **Andrzej Rozplochowski**, an opposition activist during the Communist regime, made xenophobic comments regarding the alleged interference of the German media in the Polish election campaign. Rozplochowski stated

that, *'at the end of World War II, Winston Churchill was right when he said that Germany should be bombed every fifty years so they would be preoccupied with themselves and not with their neighbours. Even though seventy-five years have passed since the end of World War II, their inborn pride and German conceit makes them once again desire to hold all the cards in Europe, as it suits them, in their own way, to impose also on us, and perhaps especially on us, Poles, how we are to live, what we are to do'*. He added that, *'when, forty years ago we took up the fight in Poland to get rid of the Soviet occupation, it was not for Germans to live in the country today, after defeating the Bolsheviks – by no means! The treacherous roundtable elites gave a lot to the Germans after 1989 – they gave away the great Polish trade, and most important of all, the media'*. In this tone, Rozplochowski encouraged the *'immediate re-polonization of the media'*, which would mean removal of the *'German media'* from Poland. *'If we throw out their media and take it over as Poles, the media they took over, our Polish newspapers, then they might lose their conceit'*, he said. As the conversation progressed further, Rozplochowski added that, *'Poles have forgiven you [the Germans – translator's note] little, especially since you still do not deserve this forgiveness. You still owe compensation in every field. [...] Your words are empty because your German actions are harmful'*. The host of the program, **Katarzyna Gojska**, a journalist of the state radio channel **Polish Radio**, did not react in any way to the scandalous statements of her interlocutor.

WARSAW. On 6 July, on **Grzegorz Braun's** YouTube channel, a video entitled *'Claims Closer and Closer to the Realisation'* was posted, in which a far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament preached conspiracy theories regarding alleged Jewish claims against Poland. Braun referred to the *'Report on the Observance of Religious Freedom around the World in 2019'*, published by the U.S. State Department, saying, *'With a certain pride in fulfilling my duty, I am finding here my own name. [...] One of the examples of my alleged antisemitism is, among others, my sentence: «The American Empire is a political as well as military tool of Jewish blackmail against Poland». Nothing more, nothing less. Still today I can sign my name under this'*. He continued, *'Anyone who thinks that the anti-virus campaign erased the Jewish claims against Poland, is naive'*, declaring that *'Jewish interests are radically inconsistent with the Polish national interest'*. Afterwards the MP addressed the audience, as follows: *'That's us, who do not hesitate to call the Jewish claims illegal and their traditions wild, tribal, barbaric and racist'*. During his speech, Braun did not mention the name of the State of Israel, but instead used the phrase *'State located on the Palestinian territory'*, thus questioning its very existence.

KRAKOW. On 8 July, on the bus no. 283 going towards Skawina, the ticket inspector behaved in an insulting manner towards a black passenger, a Senegalese footballer playing for one of the clubs in the Malopolska region. It transpired that due to insufficient knowledge of Polish, he had purchased an inappropriate city card for his journey. The woman called him *'Murzyn'* (a Polish word for *'Negro'*) and shouted, *'If you don't know Polish, go back to your country!'* Refusing to accept the explanations of the Senegalese passenger, she then called the police for no reason at all. The bus passengers attempted to point out to the inspector that her behaviour was aggressive and racist.

WARSAW. On 11 July, on the Z-9 substitute bus, one of the passengers directed a number of xenophobic insults at an Asian woman traveling with a child. She shouted *'Coronavirus', 'Go home'*,

*'F*ck off Chinese'* and *'Go and eat rice'*, and also made offensive comments about Ukrainians. None of the passengers reacted. The driver stopped the bus to intervene and ordered the aggressive female to leave the vehicle. On her way off the bus, she hit the Asian woman on the head. Her xenophobic behaviour reflected the tendency to connect all people of Asian descent to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WARSAW. On 13 July, on Zlota Street, someone shot at the windows of the headquarters of the Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej (SLD; Democratic Left Alliance party) where posters depicting Robert Biedron (Member of the European Parliament and a candidate for President of the Republic of Poland), were displayed. The perpetrator used a pneumatic weapon. SLD spokeswoman and Member of Parliament Anna Maria Zukowska, said, *'Someone was definitely targeting the Biedron posters. The police confirmed to me that the trajectory of the flight indicated that someone was aiming at them'*. The officers detained a suspect, a 41-year-old resident of Warsaw, who turned out to be a practising psychiatrist. During their search of the man's apartment, two air pistols, some pellets and CO2 cartridges were found. The detainee was charged with destroying property.

WARSAW. On 14 July, in Solidarity Avenue at a grocery store, a female shopper behaved insultingly towards two customers, an Egyptian and a Spaniard, who were standing at the checkout intending to pay for their purchases. She shouted at them, *'You have to pay in cash, this is Poland and not some Brexit!'* When the Egyptian asked her why she had spoken to them in this way, she replied (in English), *'Because you are in my country'*. She also called them *'Arabs'*. When leaving the store, both men found their way blocked by a security guard and there was a scuffle. Furthermore, it has been alleged that the aggressive woman hit one of the foreign customers and tore off his facemask.

WIELICZKA. On 14 July, at a stop on Krakowska Street, two men attacked a black man from Congo. They shouted racist insults and threats at him. A witness of the event, a teacher at one of the high schools in Krakow, defended the victim. In a media statement, he reported that, *'I asked them to leave the man alone. They replied that this was «just a normal conversation», and then one of the men pulled out a large cylinder of pepper spray and pointed it at me. Fortunately, there was little gas in it. As I turned my head to wipe my eyes, the guy lunged at me. He started hitting me on the head with the cylinder. I started bleeding'*. The attacker kicked the teacher all over his body. The teacher managed to enter a nearby store and, explaining the situation, asked a female sales assistant for help. The woman, however, requested that he leave the shop, *'because blood [was] dripping on the floor'* and stated that, *'this [was] not a racist attack'*. At the same time, in front of the premises, the attacker kept shouting, *'I f*cked you up like a rag. You're a f*cking w*ore; get out of the store, I'll kill you!'* He recorded the incident and published it on the internet. Among other things, he posted a photo of a dented gas cylinder (which he had used to hit the teacher) with the caption, *'The cylinder battered on the head of a Jew'*.

Shortly before the attack, the two attackers were on a bus no. 204, where they chanted antisemitic slogans, including *'F*ck the Jews'*. At that time, neither the passengers nor the driver reacted.

On 16 July, the man who beat the teacher was arrested. It turned out he was a football hooligan and a resident of Krakow. He was charged with public incitement of hatred on the grounds of national differences, assault and threatening to kill another person. At the request of the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Krakow, he was detained for three months pending proceedings.

LUBUSKO. In the middle of July, in this city located in the Zarski district, *'unknown perpetrators'* painted huge antisemitic and homophobic signs on a bike path. They were directed at Rafal Trzaskowski, a presidential candidate from the Koalicja Obywatelska (Civic Coalition, a coalition of liberal parties, in opposition to the government). The full width of the pavement was covered with these insults: *'Trzaskowski Jude'* next to a star of David symbol, *'Trzaskowski Hitler'* and *'Trzaskowski faggot'*.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 15 July during a second division football match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** and Odra Opole, local hooligans displayed a flag calling for violence against 'ideological enemies': it depicted the often-used symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with a slogan *'Good night left side'*.

GDANSK. On 15 July during a top flight match between **Lechia Gdansk** and Legia Warszawa, local hooligans yet again displayed a banner with an image of **Janusz Walus** along with the slogan *'Nothing will break you, you're not alone'* (a Polish immigrant sentenced to life imprisonment for the racist murder committed in 1993 in South Africa. He has been on parole since December 2022).

KATOWICE. On 18 July, the participants of a march organized by the **Nacjonalistyczny Gorny Slask (Upper Silesia Nationalist group)**, including representatives of other far-right groups: **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)**, **Malopolscy Patrioci (Malopolska Patriots)** and **Autonomiczni Nacjonalisci (Autonomous Nationalists)**, when passing through the city centre, chanted *'Janusz Walus, an example to us'*. Walus is a Polish emigrant, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa for a racist murder. They also shouted various slogans such as, *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'*, *'Strike at antifascism'* and *'We will overthrow democracy'*.



The banners, which were displayed by the demonstrators proclaimed *'It is ok to stay white'* and had the name *'The National Cleansing Front'* along with a Celtic cross, a sign commonly used by racist groups. Some of the participants wore T-shirts, hats and scarves bearing this symbol, while others were dressed in T-shirts with a typical illustration encouraging ideological violence. It depicted an attacker kicking a man lying on the ground together with a slogan used by neo-fascist groups *'Good night left side'*. The demonstrators also carried a flag with a Nazi symbol, the so-called black sun, and a banner with an emblem known as an eagle-ax. The latter, which shows the silhouette of an axe fashioned in the shape of an eagle is a pre-war symbol first used by the neo-paganic, fascist group **Zadruga** and now by its contemporary successors.

WROCLAW. On 20 July, local media reported that racist and homophobic inscriptions and symbols had appeared on the wall of the City Canal, near the South Warsaw Bridge. Someone put the slogans: *'F*ck the leftist people'*, *'F*ck LGBT'*, *'Race war'*, *'White power'*, *'GNLS'* (an abbreviation for *'Good night left side'* – a slogan popular among neo-fascists) on the wall, as well as signs of the Celtic cross

(to symbolize the supremacy of the so-called white race) and finally the number '1488', which is a combination of two numerical symbols used by neo-Nazis. The number 14 refers to the so-called 'fourteen words', namely the neo-Nazi slogan 'We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children' – formulated by **David Lane**, the leader of racist terrorists from the American group **The Order**. The origins of this text lie in an excerpt from **Adolf Hitler's 'Mein Kampf'**. The number 88 stands for 'Heil Hitler (from the eighth position of the letter H in the alphabet). Wrocław City Hall was informed about the hateful inscriptions, and on the same day (20 July) they were removed.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 25 July during a second division football match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** and Chrobry Glogow, local hooligans displayed a flag calling for violence against 'ideological enemies': it depicted the often-used symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with a slogan 'Good night left side'. Janusz Walus migrated to South Africa in 1993, where he murdered Chris Hani, an anti-apartheid leader. For several years, the Polish far-right have shown support for Walus and called for his release (he was serving life imprisonment in South Africa and has never expressed remorse; on parole since December 2022).

WARSAW. On 29 July, in a conversation broadcast on the YouTube channel **wRealu24** (internet tv), the host of the programme **Marcin Rola** and his guest **Tomasz Stala**, the owner of **3dom** publishing house from Czestochowa (which has published books with antisemitic content), both expressed extremist views drawing on racism, antisemitism, homophobia and violence. Rola's question (which challenged the authenticity of the COVID-19 pandemic), 'The muzzles must be worn, they continue to pester us with this pseudopandemic [...] do you have any friends who died of coronavirus?' was met with Stala's answer, 'It seems terrifying, [...] they are limiting the freedom of the white man'. Further along in the conversation, Rola referred to the WHO as 'communist', and Stala, continuing this thread, offended gay people by saying 'Homosexuality was crossed off the list of illnesses, I find that outrageous, that's all I know of WHO. Which other afflictions will be removed from the catalogue, pedophilia, necrophilia, zoophilia?' Rola additionally commented, 'We are taking part in the global scam of the WHO, I won't even mention the sexualization of children, four-year-olds masturbating, that is pathology. There are hardly any doctors there, just some African communist heading them, who sometime somewhere in Africa terrorized people'. Rola and Stala continued to attack the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association in the same conversation. Stala threateningly proposed that 'The street on which «NEVER AGAIN» is located should be a lime quarry [referencing how executed Holocaust victims were buried; this sentence he repeated a couple of minutes later – translator's note]. They're leftist terrorists'. Rola continued, 'You have your own opinion – antisemite, you're putting history straight – antisemite. Artificially generated antisemitism. I wouldn't be surprised if Jewish groups themselves intentionally wrote these sorts of comments, in order to ban our material and ban books, which set history straight'. Stala supported this with, 'The common denominator of all this is that it is about the mentality of people coming from the nation starting with J [meaning Jews – translator's note]'. Rola said about the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association that, 'It is remarkable that these sorts of associations are allowed to legally exist in Poland, with how much evil they're doing. Who knows who these people are, where they're from, what they do'. He also added, 'Same as the whole Black Lives Matter they have great role-models – a porn actor, some

guy who infected people with HIV intentionally, here a pedophile, here a rapist, here a bandit, criminal, drug addict’, which was enthusiastically confirmed by Stala, *‘They chose their heroes from amongst themselves’*. Stala also referred to the liberal daily newspaper, *‘Gazeta Wyborcza’*, as a *‘kosher newspaper’* (an antisemitic slur).

During the conversation, Stala also commended **Janusz Walus** – a Polish emigrant sentenced in the Republic of South Africa to life imprisonment for a racially motivated murder (he shot Chris Hani, a leading anti-apartheid activist, in 1993). In the wRealu24 broadcast, Stala said, *‘I am in constant contact with Janusz Walus on the phone. The situation in South Africa is tragic. [...] He is a wonderful, well-read man. He should come home, to Poland’*. He also stated, *‘No one knows what would happen if Chris Hani was still alive, what the extremist left-wing terrorist organization which he headed would have led to, whether there still be any white people left in South Africa. Janusz Walus made the decision, so that Chris Hani isn’t alive anymore; all that is happening now is a reply to what government looks like in Bantustan’*.

In the final part of the broadcast, Rola made the bizarre statement that, *‘Popieluszko, our saint [a Polish priest killed by communist secret police in 1984 – translator’s note], would be the first fascist today, a hundred percent’*. Stala added, *‘On the top of the black list of the «NEVER AGAIN» Association’*.

AUGUST 2020

KRAKOW. On 2 August, in front of a building on Starowislna Street, six aggressors attacked four men of Saudi Arabian, Nigerian, American and Tunisian descent. The attackers shouted racial slurs and later punched and kicked the men all over their bodies. An aggressor hit one of the men in the face and threw him to the ground. A witness to the attack, a Krakow resident, tried helping the victims and was also assaulted. On 3 September, the police detained two men, who were charged with battery, public defamation and use of violence on racial grounds, and damages to bodily health and life. Towards the end of October, two of the other attackers were detained, and were also charged with battery and defamation on racist grounds. The remaining two attackers are wanted by the police.

WARSAW. On 3 August, in a broadcast on the **YouTube** channel **wRealu24** (internet TV), the far-right propagandist **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz**, for many years linked to **Radio Maryja** (a Catholic-nationalist radio station), shared views which were antisemitic and encouraged violence. In conversation with **Piotr Szlachtowicz** he stated: *‘Jews, Jewish circles in general, jealously guard their monopoly for martyrdom. [...] According to present Jewish historical politics, Poles are a nation of murderers’*. He also questioned historical facts regarding the Holocaust, saying: *‘The tales of baron Münchhausen can be told over and over again, I encountered it in the Holocaust Museum in Washington’* (*‘Baron Munchausen’s Narrative of his Marvelous Travels and Campaigns in Russia’* is a 1785 novel written by Rudolf Erich Raspe, which contains fictional elements. The term *‘Münchhausen’s tales’* was coined to describe fictitious, humorous tales). On the wRealu24 broadcast Michalkiewicz added that, *‘Rabbi Schudrich [Chief Rabbi of Poland – translator’s note] is a representative of a certain minority, which likes to behave as if it was a majority, but it remains a*

minority, so when you are just a guest, you should behave yourself'. He also used the term 'zydokomuna' ('Judeo-communism'), which is derived from antisemitic conspiracy theories, and threatened war against this so-called enemy by saying 'No wonder «Gazeta Wyborcza» [liberal daily] is involved, because it is a part of the same circle, «Judeo-communism». One must speak openly, without obstinance and fear, because if we start to fuss over them, we will lose this war. Here the reputation of our nation is at stake'. He also encouraged violence towards journalists: '«Gazeta Wyborcza» frequently behaves in a villainous way and their editors, for their villainous behavior, should really be horsewhipped in their asses'.

POZNAN. On 7 August, near the Rusalka lake two women exhibited violence towards two teenage girls due to one of young women having... pink hair. The victim recalled, 'There were two women, with two men walking behind them. There were many children following this family around. One, a little girl, pointed at me and said «Mum, look at her hair!» The woman looked at me and shouted that this was a mental illness and a pathology. [...] She approached the fence and asked if she should climb over to me and... you know what'. After a couple of minutes, the women shouted obscenities again. They threatened the pink-haired girl and asked if she 'wants her face beaten up'. At one point, one of the teenagers was hit in the face and shaken. When the other rushed to her aid, she was also attacked by the aggressors. The girls called for help, but none of the multiple bystanders stepped in. One of the girls called her father, who found the attackers. When he attempted to explain what happened, he was also attacked by the women and the men they were accompanied by. The police were informed about the incident. In July 2021, the prosecutor's office filed an indictment against **Diana S.** and **Wanessa W.**, who were charged with minor bodily harm.

WARSAW. On August 7, on Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street, unknown perpetrators placed a poster with the words 'Warsaw, free from faggots' on a plaque in front of the Basilica of The Holy Cross. It also featured logos of a dozen or so football clubs. The management of the Polonia football club condemned the incident and issued the following statement: 'This unhappy message contradicts our values. Each and every representative of the LGBT community will always be welcome in our club and during events and meetings organised by Polonia WARSAW. The 10 core values that guide us as a community include tolerance, equality and respect'.

On August 23, a photo of the same poster, together with expressions of support for its homophobic content was posted by **Zofia Klepacka**, an Olympic medalist and windsurfing world champion, on her Instagram profile. Her post received a 'like' from **Jaroslav Jakimowicz**, an actor and **TVP Info** (state-owned news channel) presenter.

KRAKOW. In the late hours of 10 August, in the Kazimierz neighborhood one of the locals shouted slurs at artist and performer Ka Katharsis (a Trans person), who was performing in drag in the Barakah Theatre. He shouted, 'No one wants you here, pest', and threatened to 'come down and f*cking kill her'. The aggressor was Ka Katharsis' new neighbor at the flat she recently moved into. Because of this incident, she made the decision to relocate again. While she was packing her belongings with friends, the neighbor and an acquaintance again shouted homophobic slurs and spat in their direction from his balcony.

WARSAW. On 10 August, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, a far-right propagandist, made Islamophobic comments on the YouTube channel **wRealu24**. When asked by the host, **Piotr Szlachtowicz**, about the situation in Lebanon and the cause of the explosion on 4 August in Beirut (which caused 190 deaths and over 6500 thousand injuries), he concluded that, *'in the sixties Lebanon was the Switzerland of the Middle East. A wonderful, beautiful and rich country, where everyone wanted to live. [It was] Christian. Later Muslims started to appear there. And when Muslims appear somewhere, then sooner or later Jihad starts and war started'*. These words, apart from the xenophobic sentiment, also contained obvious deceit. Muslims have lived in Lebanon for several centuries, and not for a couple of decades.

Ziemkiewicz's and Szlachtowicz's comments also contained homophobic and antisemitic sentiments. Ziemkiewicz concluded that, *'there is no such thing as homophobia, it is obviously made up'*. Szlachtowicz enthusiastically nodded in agreement with Ziemkiewicz and added, *'just like poets, who write about so-called antisemitism – if there is no antisemitism, a Jew will create it. And the same happens with those who are LGBT, if there is no anti-LGBT sentiment, they will create it'*.

POZNAN. On 11 August, on the beach near Rusalka lake, an unidentified man brutally assaulted a 24-year-old citizen in a homophobic attack. He shouted, *'you faggot'*, and *'you fairy'* at the man, and hit him repeatedly on the head and face with an expandable baton. The attacker was accompanied by a friend, who observed the incident and made no effort to help the victim. None of the bystanders stepped in – multiple people were present at the beach while it was happening. The attack resulted in the young man receiving a concussion, damage to his craniofacial bones and broken nasal bones. In a media statement, when asked about the incident, the 24-year-old said, *'Why did [the attackers] approach? I suspect they didn't like my dyed hair and earring'*.

ILAWA. On 12 August in front of Ilawa Town Hall, a group of men, including some **Jeziork Ilawa** football hooligans, disrupted a protest against homophobic violence. More than ten aggressors shouted insults at the protesters and threw a firework at them. In addition, two men tried to steal a banner depicting a rainbow and the slogans: *'Minority rights are human rights. Stop the violence'*. The police intervened. Two men were fined for disrupting a lawful event and the police stated that they had established the identity of other men, who will face the same charges.

WARSAW. On 12 August during a programme broadcast on YouTube on the **wRealu24** channel (internet television), the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party MP **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, and the programme's host **Marcin Rola** made a lot of outrageous comments attacking minorities and promoting violence.

At the beginning of the broadcast, Rola paid tribute to **Roman Zielinski**, known for years as the leader of the **Slask Wroclaw** football hooligans', who was sentenced in 2015 for incitement of national and racial hatred in his book entitled, *'How I fell in love with Adolf Hitler'*. Rola said, *'Sad news for Polish patriots both from Wroclaw and perhaps from the whole of Poland – today Roman Zielinski died aged fifty-nine. He was our guest numerous times; a great Polish patriot, football fan,*

as well as a journalist and publicist, some of the books he published were about football fans and football’.

During the broadcast, both interlocutors expressed their support for **Aleksandr Lukashenko**, the Belarussian President accused of rigging elections and use of violence. Korwin-Mikke claimed, *‘The results presented by the opposition are not only improbable, but absurd. [...] Outside of Minsk, Lukashenko, as always, maintained a considerable advantage, which probably allowed him to win the election with a big lead. [...] I am not a democrat, so I am not particularly interested in that’*. The Konfederacja MP also justified violence against protesters by saying, *‘Hitting protesters in the head is normal in every country, it’s normal that police are hitting their heads with batons’*.

During the interview, Rola claimed that, *‘criminals are made into some kind of authority figures or heroes. Recently Floyd – a gang member, a criminal, a man who wanted to murder a pregnant woman, a porno actor, was almost made into a saint [George Floyd – a Black American killed on 25 May, 2020 by a policeman in Minneapolis, Minnesota – editor’s note]’*. In response to that, Korwin-Mikke compared the victim of racist violence ... to a Nazi, NSDAP member **Horst Wessel**: *‘Let me remind you that Floyd is not the first. The first was a brilliant German pimp, Horst Wessel, who, after being murdered by communists [...], was put on a pedestal by Goebbels. And the same is happening in America with Floyd, who was just as suspicious a person as Horst Wessel and just like him he is made into a hero’*.

In the next part of the broadcast, Korwin-Mikke disrespected the memory of Grzegorz Przemyski, who was murdered by militia in 1983 (Citizens Militia was the national police organization of the Polish People’s Republic), saying, *‘There was a situation under Martial Law, where a young man, son of a supposedly renowned poet [Barbara Sadowska – editor’s note], who no one has heard of, got a little drunk and was piggybacking on his friend. He started to mock the militia and they took him to the station. They were used to different criminals and punched him like they would a common crook and, unfortunately, the boy died, this grew into a big scandal’*.

The Konfederacja MP also suggested that the police should shoot LGBT activists in Poland. He said, *‘This government, which only splashes them with water, is denying them the possibility of becoming martyrs. This thug needs to be shot if he refuses to comply and then all these protests will end, because they will understand that the government is serious’*.

During the broadcast, conspiracy theories about the coronavirus pandemic were also shared. Korwin-Mikke claimed that, *‘behind it are some powers, which supply enormous amounts of money to convince people that there is a pandemic’*.

The radical right YouTube channel wRealu24 has had a studio in Warsaw’s PAST building (a symbol of the Warsaw Uprising) since December 2018, which is located next to the border of what used to be the Warsaw Ghetto. The ‘NEVER AGAIN’ association has protested numerous times against using these premises to spread hatred, receiving no response from the municipal authorities.

WROCLAW. On 12 August, Franek Broda, a 17-year-old LGBT activist was verbally abused by three men at a railway station. In a media statement, he reported that, *‘One of [them] yelled: «Hey, you are that faggot that protects that thing?».* I acted peacefully and then I heard threats that they were going to beat me up’. Police were not notified of the incident.

GDANSK. On 14 August, on bus number 148 from Sopot to Nowy Port (a neighborhood of Gdansk city), a student was subjected to a homophobic attack. She had two small rainbow flags in her backpack, which drew the attention of two other passengers – a married man and woman. The couple shouted slurs and threats to the student including, *‘Oh no, I will not be sitting in same bus as this faggot’, ‘Put the flag away, or I will f*ck you up, f*cking faggot’, ‘Oh f*ck no, I will go to jail today because of you’, ‘Care to lose your front teeth? Hide the flag’, ‘I’ll f*ck him up right now’, ‘It is clearly provocative to board a bus with that here. F*ck off’, ‘Where are you getting off? Probably Brzezno [a neighborhood], I’ll get out then too and we’ll see how far you make it’.* None of the passengers helped the woman, and one of the witnesses expressed his support for the aggressive, abusive man. When the aggressor left the bus, he spat at the student and destroyed the LGBT flags.

WALCZ. On 14 August, on the promenade by the Castle Lake, a homophobic city resident attacked a 10-year-old girl and her 17-year-old brother. He hit the young man several times on the head using a metal tool that looked like a gun. None of the witnesses to the event responded to the victim’s call for help. The teenager was taken to hospital. At the beginning of August, on Kilinszczakow Street, the same man attacked a 15-year-old boy. He hit him in the face and showered him with insults. It transpired the attacker was 28-year-old **Piotr Z.** The spokesman for the Walcz District Police Headquarters, Constable Beata Budzyn, gave the press the following comments: *‘The perpetrator’s behaviour was consistent in the two attacks. First, he verbally accosted a minor or minors passing nearby. His words contained references to a different sexual orientation. Next he attacked the minors, hitting them without warning’.* The man was charged with causing actual bodily harm. According to media reports, during the investigation, he testified that he had attacked the teenagers because, *‘he did not like their dyed hair’.*

ZIELONA GORA. On 14 August, **Jacek Budzinski**, a teacher from III Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. T. Kotarbinskiego school and a municipal councilor connected to the **Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice)** governing party), posted an offensive comment about sexual minorities on Facebook. He wrote, *‘from the web: Are there girls from LGBT over here? What sanitary pads are you using so that they don’t pinch your balls?’* On 20 August, when talking to local press, he referred to his post as *‘humorous’.*

DEBICA. On 15 August during a fourth division football match between **Wisloka Debica** and Stal Krasnik, local hooligans displayed a homophobic banner, containing the slogan '*LGBT-free zone*', with a crossed-out rainbow. Additionally, some hooligans wore T-shirts with an image calling for violence against 'ideological enemies', depicting a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with the slogan '*Good night left side*'. Other slogans on their T-shirts included '*Anti Antifa*', a hostile expression towards anyone manifesting their anti-fascist stance.



KALISZ. On 15 August during a Polish Cup match between **KKS 1925 Kalisz** and Korona Kielce, local hooligans displayed a homophobic banner containing the slogan '*No to homo-terror*' and a crossed-out 'LGBT'.

SLUPSK. On 15 August during a fifth division football match between **Gryf Slupsk** and Wierzyca Pelplin, local hooligans displayed a banner with the slogan '*Death to the enemies of the motherland*' (nowadays used to foster ideologically motivated aggression) along with a banner that used the **Confederate** flag (used in XIX century in the American Civil War by the South and nowadays by racist groups) as the background. Gryf hooligans also burnt a rainbow flag (a symbol of the LGBT community). The incident was condemned by the local Sports and Leisure Center (which rents the stadium to the club), which declared that: '*We do not accept any situations calling for hatred due to national, ethnic, racial, religious or sexual differences. Such behaviour is against sportsmanship and spreads hate in society. We will strongly oppose such actions by fans*'. The Centre fined Gryf PLN 500 (approx. EUR 100).

UNIEJOW. On 15 August, Hubert Centkowski, a TV producer, was physically attacked by another hotel guest while on holiday with his partner. Centkowski recalled that during a conversation concerning discrimination against sexual minorities, one man '*was muttering something under his breath about faggots, and the LGBT ideology... this wasn't aimed at me specifically so I pretended not to hear it. However, he grew increasingly angry*'. When the man started being aggressive and pushing his own wife around, Centkowski tried to intervene. '*I told him to stop, to let her go. The last thing I remember is a fist flying in my direction and him shouting: «F*got!»*' – recalled Centkowski. As a result of the interaction, he lost consciousness and had to have seven stitches for the damage done to his eyebrow arch.

WARSAW. On 15 August during the fourth division football match **Polonia Warszawa** – Concordia Elblag, local hooligans displayed a banner with the slogan '*LGBT-free zone*'. This incident provoked a reaction by the president of Polonia, Grégoire Nitot, who described it to the media in the following manner: '*I personally asked the security guards to tell the fans to remove those banners. But the security guards were scared. So I went to the fans myself. I told their chief I'd like to have a coffee with people who commit such acts. But I don't know if he passed on the invitation. Anyway, whether they like it or not, in Polonia we accept everyone! Tolerance for others – this is one of our core values*'.

WARSAW. On the night of 15/16 August, on Jagiellonska Street, three men attacked a gay couple. *'We were holding hands on our way home, when suddenly, as we were almost at our door, I heard a shout from behind me «Hey you!». I turn around and heard «f*cking faggot». As they approached, a fist landed above my eye'* – recalled one of the victims, a LGBT rights activist. The attackers beat both men to the ground and continued kicking them. They broke on of the victims' teeth. The attackers fled when passersby appeared.

WARSAW. On 16 August, a theatre director Pawel Passini was assaulted on the 128 bus, by hooligan's from **Legia Warsaw**. They tried to beat him up, stole his headphones, and when they were disembarking they threatened him: *'We are going to get you faggot'*. This is how Passini described the event: *'I started to scream for help but no one reacted. People were turning their heads and looking out the window'*. He was able to escape his attackers and run to the front of the bus. He told the woman who was driving the bus what had happened, but she refused to take any action and continued on the scheduled route (she did not inform the head office nor did she call the police).

WARSAW. On 16 August, a **Legia Warszawa** hooligan spat on and insulted a young man from Vietnam whilst travelling on the bus 172 towards the district of Mokotow. The injured boy asked passengers for help, but no one reacted. When he got off the bus at the Woloska stop, the attacker sprayed pepper spray at him and threatened him with violence. According to the victim, the perpetrator attacked him for xenophobic and homophobic reasons and stated that he *'did not like'* that the boy had earrings.

WARSAW. On 16 August, in the Wola neighborhood, two men used homophobic slurs and death threats against two people who had hung a rainbow flag (a symbol of the LGBT community) on their balcony. The aggressive passersby shouted *'F*cking faggots!'*, *'I will kill you, second floor w*ore!'*, and *'LGBT perverts'* at them. After a couple of hours, the men returned to the area and once they spotted the flag again they shouted, *'We will kill you'*, *'F*ck LGBT'*, and *'LGBT w*ores'*. One of the victims recalled, *'The moment they started counting the windows to know which flat to break into, I called the police'*. The man filed a report to the Regional Police Station in Wola regarding these death threats.

A similar incident took place at night of 22/23 August, when a group of neighbours shouted threats and insults at an activist and his flatmate. *'They said that they cannot drink their coffee in peace because they feel sick looking at our rainbow flag. They said that if the rainbow flag is not gone by Monday, they will burn it. They proudly announced that they know the codes to my building, they have access to a balcony adjacent to mine, so they could gain access to mine as well. They have flares and they want to use them to show us that we are not welcome'* – the man reported. In this case, he also notified the police about getting punishable threats. In a media statement, he informed: *'When [the accused] was summoned by the police in October, he threatened me again. He said that my testimony was slander and I will have to pay him compensation. He didn't let me enter my building. I also reported this to the police'*. In the middle of December 2020, the District Court in Warszawa-Wola found the accused guilty, and sentenced him to ten months of *'restriction of his liberties in the form of unpaid, controlled community service'* of 30 hours a month.

On 11 January 2021 the Court reached a decision in the second case. Two men, who threatened the life of the LGBT activist and his flatmate, were sentenced to six months of community service of 20 hours a month.

BYSTRZYCA KŁODZKA. On 19 August during a Polish Cup second round match between **Polonia Bystrzyca Klodzka** and Piast Nowa Ruda, local hooligans displayed a banner which called for ideological violence. It depicted an image of a man hitting his opponent along with the slogan ‘*Good night left side*’. Polonia hooligans also displayed a banner saying ‘*White Lives Matter*’. The latter is a racist phrase generated in response to global protests against violence toward black people in the United States and other countries organized under the slogan ‘*Black Lives Matter*’. The slogan ‘*White Lives Matter*’ has been in use since 2015 by neo-Nazi and far-right groups, including the **Ku-Klux-Klan**.

ŁÓDŹ. On 20 August, on the **Telewizja Trwam** (a Catholic-nationalist TV station) owned by Fr. **Tadeusz Rydzyk**, the Education Minister for the city of Łódź **Grzegorz Wierchowski** shared the following comment: ‘*We are currently battling the virus, but I think this LGBT virus, the ideological virus is much more dangerous, because it is a virus which is dehumanizing the community*’. On 23 August, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Education informed the media that Wierchowski had been removed from his previous position as minister. However, she did not share the reason for his dismissal. Support for Wierchowski’s homophobic comment came from **Ryszard Terlecki**, vice marshal of parliament associated with the **Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice)** governing party) and the head of the Law and Justice parliamentary club. He stated in a media interview that, ‘*I share the view of the minister, that the LGBT ideology is dehumanizing society, and children must be protected from it, that’s obvious [...]. It is a nihilistic ideology meant to destroy a normally functioning society*’. When asked if Wierchowski’s comment could have been offensive, he denied this claim and added, ‘*It is a defence of the normal, peaceful majority against groups of anarchists, nihilists and social revolutionists*’.

POZNAN. On 20 August, on the corner of Piekary and St. Marcin Street, a foreign guest at the Short Waves Festival of Film was the victim of a homophobic attack from an unknown man. The aggressor kicked the festivalgoer in the back and shouted slurs regarding his clothing and appearance. The organizers published a statement regarding the attack and expressed their solidarity with, ‘*everyone who has recently suffered from homophobic violence in Poland*’.

WARSAW. On 20 August, local media reported three men directing homophobic slurs and threats at a woman who passed them on Kobielska Street. The reason for the attack was... the woman’s striped dress, which they interpreted as an LGBT community symbol. The victim recalled, ‘*Suddenly one shouted a mean comment in my direction and the rest continued offending me with extremely vulgar slurs, calling me, among others, a «rainbow w*ore» [...]. They also yelled that they would easily remove these rags from me and spit on them*’.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 21 August, local media reported that the slogan ‘*Death to LGBT*’ appeared in the city center near a crossing close to Teatr Polski (Polish Theatre), along with a drawing of a gallows with the word ‘*LGBT*’ hung on it as well as racist Celtic cross symbols.

BYDGOSZCZ. Late at night on 21 August, on Dworcowa Street, three aggressive men attempted to enter the Red Pub – a gay club. ‘*They called people «faggots» and said they should be dealt with. Later they approached the club*’ – recalled a woman who witnessed the incident. The men were stopped by a security guard and a fight ensued. One of the attackers kicked a female bartender in the stomach. Police were called to the scene, but the aggressors managed to flee. According to witnesses, when clients of the club were leaving the venue and heading towards Sniadeckich Street, they were stopped and verbally assaulted by the same aggressive men.

WROCLAW. On 21 of August during **Roman Zielinski’s** funeral in Osobowicki cemetery, a **Rakow Czestochowa** hooligan posed with a scarf saying ‘*Our hero Janusz Walus*’. Roman Zielinski was a former leader of the **Slask Wroclaw** hooligans firm and the author of a book titled ‘*How I fell in love with Adolf Hitler*’. Walus is a Polish immigrant, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa where he murdered Chris Hani in 1993, a politician who fought apartheid [Walus has been on parole since December 2022 – translator’s note]. The scarf also displayed the motto ‘*White honour, white pride*’ (lyrics to a neo-Nazi song by **Konkwista 88**) and a symbol of the so-called tristika (a styled, three-armed swastika) in the colours of the third Reich flag. The tristika is a racist symbol that originated in South Africa. In February 2015, Roman Zielinski was sentenced to six months of social work of 30 hours a month by the District Court in Wroclaw-Srodmiestec for inciting hatred on the grounds of national and racial denominations. Zielinski appealed the verdict. In July 2015 the Regional Court in Wroclaw upheld his sentence.



WROCLAW. On 21 August on the K bus, a **Slask Wroclaw** hooligan attacked a woman who had rainbow-coloured sneakers (symbol of the LGBT community). The victim described the attack as follows: ‘*The man smirked and looked at my rainbow sneakers. He stepped forward and stomped on my foot as hard as he could*’. He was also screaming out threats and slurs: ‘*I don’t like your face, faggot sneakers, faggot hair, do you want me to f*ck you up?*’ No passenger reacted to this event.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 22 April, on 11 Listopada Street, four men attacked activists of Teczowe Podbeskidzie (Rainbow Podbeskidzie) and Mlodzi Razem (Youth Together) groups, who set up an informational stand showing support for arrested LGBT activist Margot. The attackers shouted for the youth to, ‘*Get the f*ck out, faggots*’, poured an unidentified substance on them, and sprayed them with pepper spray. They also stole a rainbow flag (a symbol of sexual minorities). A 16-year-old girl was injured in the incident.

GOSTYN. On 22 August, during mass in the Sanctuary of the Holy Mother Church, priest **Leszek Woznica** shared a sermon, in which he included offensive comments regarding the LGBT community. He claimed, *'Today these various evil people under the rainbow colours [symbolizing the LGBT community] are worse than the Bolsheviks. Fighting for souls. These are the devil's powers'*.

KONIN. On 22 August during a fourth division football match between **Gornik Konin** and Kotwica Kolobrzeg, local hooligans displayed a homophobic banner on the fences surrounding the stands. It contained the slogan *'Konin, free from LGBT'* with the acronym LGBT crossed-out. After the match, the hooligans hung the banner on a local overpass. This incident was condemned by Mayor Piotr Korytkowski: *'This is hate speech. I'm really upset that such things are taking place in Poland, that a dangerous conflict is simmering and our society is being divided. People don't understand what LGBT really means'*.

LODZ. On 23 August, the Equality Factory (local NGO) informed on its Facebook profile that on Rysownicza Street, someone had painted a mural offending people belonging to sexual minorities. The graffiti contained a rainbow spreading over figures of adults and children. The intended message that this painting conveyed was to portray the LGBT community as an alleged threat to families and Polishness.

OSTROW WIELKOPOLSKI On 23 August during a fifth division football match **Ostrovia 1909 Ostrow Wielkopolski – Odolanovia Odolanow**, local hooligans displayed a homophobic banner which they had also paraded on their way to the stadium, when they stopped at the city park in Ostrow. During the match itself, Odolanovia hooligans chanted homophobic slurs. The incidents were condemned by the board of Ostrovia, who declared: *'This homophobic gesture was not inspired by activists, coaches, players or members of Ostrovia 1909 Football Club. The Ostrovia 1909 FC strongly condemns any actions which spread negative attitudes and feelings due to sexual orientation, gender, religion, skin colour, etc. Our players, employees, activists and fans may include people of different orientation who might have felt offended. On behalf of the Board I represent, I state that Ostrovia 1909 is a «zone free from homophobia, racism, bigotry or any other kind of discrimination»'*.

WROCLAW. On 23 August, in front of the St. Michael Archangel church on Boleslaw Prusa Street, an aggressive man demolished an informational stand, set up as part of the Plastformers Foundation's ecofriendly campaign *'Change your furnace'*, which encourages citizens to change their heating to eco-friendly alternatives. *'Suddenly a man approached on a bicycle. He said loudly, «Even here, under a church? Get the f*ck out!».* He didn't let us say anything and just kicked the stand. It fell on top of me as I was sitting on a bench with my laptop' – said the chairman of the foundation Bruno Zachariasiewicz. He added, *'It looks like the guy thought we were promoting transitioning [in Polish, the word for furnace (piec) is similar in spelling to the word for gender (plec), so if the slogan was misread as 'change your gender' it could be understood as encouraging gender transition – translator's note]. Many people make this mistake and read «Zmien piec» as «Zmien plec»'*. In a statement, Zachariasiewicz recalled other homophobic incidents which occurred the same day when

people were exiting the church. *'Some threatened us, others approached and shared their grievances. They automatically read the slogan as «zmien plec». I told him to read it carefully. He admitted that he made a mistake'*.

WARSAW. On 24 August, **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz**, a broadcaster associated for many years with **Radio Maryja** (a Catholic-nationalist radio station with a long record of antisemitic statements), used hate speech in an interview broadcasted on the **wRealu24** YouTube channel. One of the things he said incited violence against Swedish eco-activist Greta Thunberg: *'This little s*thead is misleading all of us – I'm talking about Greta Thunberg – and everyone is treating her with reverence, instead of spanking her shapely butt, which would be the end of it. They are treating her like a stinky egg'*. Later in the broadcast, when the host **Piotr Szlachtowicz** addressed Michalkiewicz with the words, *'So we have this LGBT...'*, the commentator interrupted him and said, *'Can I ask you not to use this abbreviation [LGBT – translator's note]? The Polish language has some great phrases: perverts, degenerates, deranged, lesbians and sodomites – they are just perverts. [...]. Perverts, sodomites, lesbians degenerates, those, who f*ck with everyone, as long as they are still warm, and deranged – because if someone can't specify their gender identity, then they are no different from someone who can't specify their life situation and thinks they are Julius Cesar, and such people are not listened to, but rather stuffed with sedatives'*. Michalkiewicz was able to weave antisemitic threads into his homophobic tirade, when he said, *'To terrorise normal people – Judeo-communists already have a plan. It is an operation which has spanned many years. [...] First, the Judeo-communists took over universities. This is why there are more and more deranged individuals'*. Michalkiewicz developed his antisemitic conspiracy theories when talking about the political climate in Belarus. When talking about the alleged financial claims that Jewish people were to have against Poland, he declared that, *'In Belarus, no one from these organisations fabricating the Holocaust had the courage to demand such claims against Lukashenko, even though there were many more of these estates without heirs'* (*'fabricating the Holocaust'* is a phrase used by so-called historical revisionists in order to trivialise the tragedy of the Holocaust). All the scandalous, homophobic and antisemitic claims made by Michalkiewicz were met with vigorous approval from the host Piotr Szlachtowicz.

WARSAW. On 26 August, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, Member of Parliament for the **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party) was interviewed by **Tomasz Sommer**, the editor-in-chief of the extreme-right bi-weekly magazine *'Najwyższy Czas!'* (*'High Time!'*). Their discussion was broadcast on the magazine's YouTube channel. Mr Korwin-Mikke stated that during World War II, Poles should have supported Nazi Germany. When Sommer said that *'all countries in our region [Central Europe] were partners of the Germans'* at the time, Korwin-Mikke replied, *'You mention Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, and rightly so. These countries went along with the Germans. If Poland had gone along with Germany, it would have been consistent. If [Poland] had taken Zaolzie [Trans-Olza region] and then gone alongside the Germans to Moscow, we would have conquered Moscow, the Stalinist regime would have collapsed and the National Socialist regime would have reigned here instead of the Soviet one'*. Sommer then added that, *'all the countries that sided with Germany [...] suffered much, much less damage in the war than Poland, which did not know what policy to follow'*, to which Korwin-Mikke repeated, *'If [Poland] had taken Zaolzie, it should have been consistent and gone with the Germans to the Soviet Union. We would not have come out worse than we in fact did,*

just as the Hungarians, as you know, did not come out much worse than we did’.

Later in the conversation, the Konfederacja member presented the position of his political camp in relation to the political crisis in Belarus: *‘We are not particularly interested in the fate of the Belarusian nation. Perhaps joining the Russian Federation might be in the interests of the Belarusian people’.*

WARSAW. On 27 August, **Tomasz Jaskola**, a former MP (in the VIII term of the Sejm – lower chamber of Polish Parliament) from the **Kukiz’15** party, tweeted his support for 17-year-old **Kyle Rittenhouse**, who shot two participants of the Black Lives Matter protests (the event took place on 25 August, 2020 in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The perpetrator was arrested and charged with first degree murder). Jaskola published a video recording of the murder and commented, *‘Bravo, boy! Good job!’* This scandalous comment was shared (retweeted) by a far-right propagandist from public television channel **TVP Info**, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**. Jaskola’s tweet was heavily commented on, with many racist remarks praising the murder. For example: *‘Two less fanatics in this world’, ‘Important that the boy protected himself against these idiots and f*cking N*iggers’, ‘They should give him a medal’, ‘Just two of them???!’, ‘Shoot down the antifa cattle until no one’s left’, ‘I’m watching it for the hundredth time and I can’t get enough of it’, ‘If he wasn’t protecting himself, the leftist psychos from ANTIFA would have f*cking killed him. Marxism is spreading... and LGBT should take this scene to heart, because I will protect myself as well’, and ‘It should have been a public pacification of these leftist monkeys. The guy should be given a medal for this’.*

POZNAN. On 28 August, in the Armia Krajowa neighbourhood, an aggressive man shouted slurs at a pair of brothers (aged 7 and 22) who have Armenian parents. *‘He yelled that they should «get the f*ck out of this country» and that «Poland is for Poles»’* – reported another citizen. Her husband had stood up for the attacked brothers, causing him to also be attacked by the man. The attacker said, *‘You will not be threatening me with police. You’re protecting this trash, while I am a real Pole’* and proceeded to beat him, and kick him in the head. Police were called to the scene. The following morning, a spokesperson for the Greater Poland police issued a statement in which he did not confirm the incident had racist motives and added that, *‘the situation caused by the perpetrator may have just been hooliganism’.*

WARSAW. On the evening of 28 August, in a Vietnamese bar on the Derby estate, two men shouted xenophobic insults toward a female member of staff. They shouted at her to, *‘Get the f*ck out of Poland, you slant-eyed idiot!’* and made aggressive gestures in her direction. One of the bar’s customers stood up for the harassed woman. She reported that, *‘I criticised them politely but was laughed at. So I took out my phone and went outside [...]. During my conversation with a policeman, one of the men threatened to kill me and called me names such a «slag» and «w*ore».... And when he heard that I was giving the police the address of the bar I was calling from, he pushed me, then threw food at me and spat on me’.* Passersby who witnessed the incident overpowered the attacker, but he managed to escape before the police arrived.

KATOWICE. Late at night on 28 August, on the 908N night bus from Katowice to Sosnowiec, a man insulted one of the passengers using the homophobic insult *‘faggot’.* Another passenger, a 20-year-

old student, stepped in and defended the man. When he confronted the aggressor, he was beaten up. The student received two punches in the face, which caused him to bang his head against a metal pole and lose consciousness. When the man was lying on the floor, the hooligan continued to hit him on the head. He was encouraged to do this by his friend, who at the same time was recording the attack on a mobile phone. Neither the driver nor other passengers reacted to the incident on the bus in any way. The police were informed about the incident. On 2 September, a 27-year-old man turned himself in to the First Police Station in Sosnowiec. He was charged with the offence of causing bodily harm. The District Court in Sosnowiec sentenced him to a year and a half of community service at 40 hours per month. The man who recorded the incident on his phone was sentenced to six months of community service at 40 hours a month.

GDANSK. On 29 August during the top flight football match between **Lechia Gdansk** and Rakow Czestochowa, local hooligans yet again displayed a banner showing support for **Janusz Walus**. It contained the slogan *'Nothing will break you, you are not alone'* with an image of Walus. **Janusz Walus** migrated to South Africa in 1993, where he murdered Chris Hani, an anti-apartheid leader. Lechia hooligans also displayed a banner with a stylised Celtic cross, a racist symbol.

KRAKOW. On 29 August, on the Grunwaldzki Bridge, two women carrying a rainbow flag (a symbol of sexual minorities) and returning from the Equality March, were attacked by four men driving by in a car. The aggressors called them names and one of them got out of the car and demanded that the women gave up their rainbow flag. When they refused, the man sprayed pepper spray at one of them. The injured female notified the police about the violation of her bodily integrity by an unknown person. On 8 September, the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Krakow-Podgorze refused to initiate an investigation into the incident, claiming the absence of any indications of a prosecutable offence, and lack of public interest in prosecuting a 'private' criminal offence.

KRAKOW. On or around August 29, on Pawia Street, *'unknown perpetrators'* tried to damage a rainbow flag, which, as a sign of solidarity with LGBT people, was displayed on the balcony of the constituency office of a Lewica (Left) coalition party MP Maciej Gdula. Someone threw a bottle at the flag and the glass shattered against the facade between the windows. The police were notified of the incident.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 30 August during a top flight football match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** and Cracovia Krakow, local hooligans yet again displayed a flag which called for ideological violence. They held a banner showing a symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with the slogan *'Good night left side'*, which is often used by neo-fascist groups.

SEPTEMBER 2020

WARSAW. At the beginning of September, near the Mlociny shopping centre, an unrecognized man attacked, for homophobic reasons, a woman who... was walking along holding the hand of her 13-year-old niece. The attacker called them names including, *'You f*cking dykes!'* He then hit the woman in the face with his fist and broke her nose. A witness to the event, a young man who tried

to help the victim, was also beaten by the attacker. Piotr Pytlakowski, a journalist from *'Polityka'* weekly reported the attack on social media.

WARSAW. On 4 September, in the evening, on Zurawia street next to a gay club, a man was assaulted on homophobic grounds. He was called homophobic slurs by the aggressors and received a punch to his eye. A Lewica (the Left party) Member of Parliament Dr. Krzysztof Smiszek, who knows the victim, reported the incident on his Twitter account.

GDANSK. On 5 September, the **Zaloga Bialej Polnocy (White North Crew)** and **Autonomiczni Nacjonalisci (Autonomous Nationalists)** far-right groups organized a march through the streets of the city. The demonstration was also attended by representatives of extreme-right: **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)**, **Stowarzyszenie na rzecz Tradycji i Kultury Niklot (Niklot Association for Tradition and Culture)**, **Zarzewie na rzecz Tozsamosci (Embers for Identity)**, and members of the **Bulgarian National Union (BNS)**. The participants of the march chanted, *'White Europe, pure Europe'*, *'White honour, white pride'* and *'White lives matter'*. The latter is a racist phrase generated in response to global protests against violence toward black people in the United States and other countries organized under the slogan *'Black Lives Matter'*. Since 2015, the slogan *'White Lives Matter'* has been used by neo-Nazi and far-right groups, including the **Ku-Klux-Klan**. The participants of the Gdansk demonstration also displayed symbols of the Celtic cross signifying superiority of the so-called white race, the **Confederate** flag used in the American Civil War in 1861-1865 (today considered a symbol of racial persecution), and the so-called black sun symbol (a Nazi sign). They also carried a banner saying *'It's ok to stay white'*. Despite the messages displayed by the demonstrators, the Gdansk authorities did not dissolve the gathering.

DOBRODZIEN. On 7 September, local media reported the devastation of the Jewish cemetery on Lubliniecka Street by *'unknown perpetrators'*. They knocked over and smashed more than a dozen gravestones. *'In some cases it looks as if someone has tried to get to the foundations of the graves. The ground is dug up, the grass is torn up and the bricks of the tombstone are visible'*, said Agnieszka Hurnik, director of the Cultural and Sports Centre in Dobrodzien whose employees were tidying up the cemetery. It is not known when exactly the cemetery was devastated.



WARSAW. On 7 September, in a shop belonging to the **RTV Euro AGD** chain, an employee discriminated against a blind person. The victim turned out to be Pawel Wdowik, Vice-Minister of Family and Social Policy, as well as a government plenipotentiary for people with disabilities, who announced on his Twitter account that, *'I was denied the possibility of an instalment purchase, because I am blind. The employee asked me to come with an adult'*. When Wdowik asked the employee in charge of the instalment purchases about the details of signing such a contract, the woman said these words to him, *'Sir, this needs to be read, understood and signed'*. Later Wdowik

reported, *'I asked her to draw up a statement saying that as a blind person I cannot make an instalment purchase in this store. When I was denied that, I suggested calling the police, who would write up a statement about the discrimination I was experiencing. This unfortunately angered the entire staff, who accused me of issuing threats towards their colleague'*. The company Euro-net, which runs the RTV Euro AGD chain, expressed their regret regarding the situation and announced the implementation of *'additional provisions for people with special needs'*.

TARNOWSKIE GORY. On the night of 8/9 September, an *'unknown perpetrator'* destroyed one of the historic tombstones in the Jewish cemetery, the 124-year-old granite obelisk marking the grave of Rebecka Freund. Only a few days earlier it had been cleaned by local social activists, who had restored the gilding of the lettering.

SOSNOWIEC. On 8 September, one of the town's residents reported on a local website that his friend, a retired teacher, had been attacked by two men because she was carrying a rainbow-coloured shopping bag. The attackers concluded that the woman was expressing her sexual orientation in this way (in fact, the bag was a gift from her granddaughter and referred to the rainbow simply as a phenomenon of the weather). An acquaintance of the victim reported in the media that, *'She used the bag for a while until one day two thugs asked her: «Do you want to have your face smashed, you old dyke?» One of them swung his arm as if to hit her but luckily he didn't connect. She left the scene quickly, but heard vulgar words and unrefined jokes as she departed. The men called themselves «True Poles» saying that there was no place for perverts in Poland'*.

ZABRZE. Probably on the night of 10/11 September on Cmentarna Street, *'unknown perpetrators'* demolished 25 graves in the historic Jewish Cemetery. The devastation was discovered by Dariusz Walerjanski – researcher of Jewish history in Upper Silesia, who has been taking care of the Zabrze cemetery for many years now. He reported that, *'Somebody passed through there and knocked over a gravestone. Additionally the stone markers of the quarters and the frames of the tombs were smashed. It was as if somebody was picking them up and throwing them until they broke. He also added that, 'I have no doubt that this was a deliberate action. Since the cemetery was closed, someone had to make an effort to jump over the fence'*. The cemetery in Zabrze was established in 1871 and is considered to be one of the most beautiful Jewish cemeteries in Central and Eastern Europe. To this day, the cemetery comprises around 500 gravestones.

LODZ. On 12 September, Marcin Golaszewski PhD, chairman of the City Council, posted photos on Facebook of antisemitic inscriptions and symbols on buildings on Limanowskiego, Rojna and Rewolucji Streets. They were painted by hooligan football fans from two local teams – **Widzew** and **LKS**. Mr Golaszewski commented that *'An hour-long bicycle trip through the streets of Lodz and what do you see: the stars of David, «Juden raus», terms such as «Zydzew» [combination of words: «Zyd» – Jew and «Widzew» – a Lodz-based football club], profanities pouring out of the facades of our buildings. It is only a few days now until the derby – will this festival of hatred in our streets continue? [...] German, antisemitic expressions from the Holocaust on the walls of a Polish city, a city so painfully affected by war and hatred. One cannot but question the state of our society...'*

WARSAW. On 12 September, at West Railway Station an aggressor attacked a passenger for homophobic reasons. He called him *'Faggot'* and punched him in the face twice. The attacker escaped from the scene.

KRAKOW. On the night of 12/13 September, at the intersection of Lobzowska and Batory Streets, two attackers beat a Ukrainian man who was an employee of the Jewish Community Center in Kazimierz. The victim reported that, *'I spoke Russian on the phone. First they started calling me a faggot. Then one of them hit me in the back of the head and continued beating me up. I tried to defend myself, but I had no chance. My hands and face were covered with blood. While they were hitting me, one of the men ripped the Star of David from my neck. I have been living in Krakow for eight years now. People have called me names on the street, but I had never been physically attacked before'*. The victim was helped by passers-by and one of them escorted him to the police station at Krolewska Street. The police officer refused to accept the report of the beating.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 18 September during the top flight match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** and Rakow Czestochowa, local hooligans yet again displayed a banner which called for violence against *'ideological enemies'*. It depicted an image of a man hitting his opponent, along with the slogan *'Good night left side'*, used by neo-fascist groups. According to the Podbeskidzie hooligans, the flag had been renewed and *'debuted'* in the stands.

BIALYSTOK. On 19 September, a protest against sexual minorities organised by the far-right groups: **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)**, **Autonomiczni Nacjonalisci (Autonomous Nationalists)** and football hooligans of **Jagiellonia Bialystok** marched through the city. During the demonstration, the participants chanted offensive slogans directed towards the LGBT community including *'Deviants, get out of our region'*, *'No faggotry'* and *'This is Podlasie, not Brussels, perversions are not supported here'*. More homophobic content was also displayed on banners carried at the head of the convoy. In addition, far-right activists gave various speeches. One of them described sexual minorities as, *'Degenerates from under the rainbow flag'*, while another called out that, *'The time has come to stop the degenerates. Let's not allow ourselves to be forced into supporting deviation'*. According to the Provincial Police Headquarters in Bialystok, the march proceeded *'without any incidents'* (as reported in a statement for the media).

GNIEZNO. On 19 September, in Dolina Pojednania park a group of extreme nationalists (among them a well-known activist of **Mlodzię Wszęchpolska – All-Polish Youth**), insulted and threatened the participants of a picnic organised by left-wing activists. They shouted at them, among other things, *'F*ck LGBT'*, and *'No faggoting!'* They also displayed a banner which said, *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'* (a slogan used nowadays to encourage ideologically motivated violence). Furthermore, one of the aggressors was wearing a hat displaying the racist symbol of the Celtic cross. When somebody called out to the aggressive men saying that there were fewer of them than the picnic participants, the men responded by saying, *'F*ck you, it is enough to take care of your group!'* Moreover, during a speech given by a young leftist activist and organiser of the meeting, Kacper Parol, the aggressive men chanted, *'Take a rope hang yourself and leave Gniezno'*

alone!’ The police, who were called to the scene, identified the men. According to a spokesperson for the Wielkopolska police, no actions against the aggressors were taken.

KRAKOW. On 21 September, Dr. Bartłomiej Swaczyna, a lecturer at the Jagiellonian University, posted on his social media account that on Wislana Cycling Route, between the footbridge on Skawinka and Kopanka ‘unknown perpetrators’ had painted the slogan ‘Kill a faggot’ along the road. Immediately after seeing it B. Swaczyna notified the police, the municipality police and the State Water Holding Polish Waters. As a result of his intervention, the inscription was removed.

BYTOM. On 27 September during a fifth division match between **Szombierki Bytom** and Szczakowianka Jaworzno, local hooligans displayed a banner with a crossed-out the ‘LGBT’ acronym. On the wall around the stadium they had also painted the name of their club along with the racist symbol of a Celtic cross.



OLKUSZ. On 27 September, the local media reported that damage had been caused at the Jewish cemetery on Jana Kantego Street. During the past few years ‘unknown perpetrators’ have kicked over and broken many tombstones and devastated the fence of the cemetery. On some of the gravestones, the perpetrators wrote ‘Jude raus’, and drew the Star of David.

KOZIENICE. On 28 September, a twelve-year-old student of the Public Primary School No. 3 and the Music School of 1st degree in Kozienice, committed suicide. A teacher from one of the local schools stated that, ‘I teach young people of the same age. Some of them knew the girl and claimed that she was harassed by her peers online and in real life, due to her sexual orientation’. In a report following the tragic event, ‘Gazeta Wyborcza’ daily established that various homophobic comments were made on the student’s Facebook profile. On 8 October, 2019 the following entries appeared under a post she had made about a ‘wedding’ with a girl (posted as a so-called ‘life event’): ‘Two f*cking sluts, lesbian sluts’, ‘I want to vomit, when I look at you’ and ‘Kill yourself, b*tch’. The proceedings following the death of the twelve-year-old were conducted by the District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Kozienice.

LODZ. On 29 September during a second division match between **Widzew Lodz** and Zagłębie Sosnowiec, security refused to allow in a group of 14 disabled fans, members of the Association of Disabled Fans of Zagłębie Sosnowiec 1906. Although they had personal tickets admitting to the sector for the disabled, the security did not accept the tickets and kept sending them from one entry booth to another. In the end, the police told the fans to leave the stadium and go back to Sosnowiec. Grzegorz Zmuda, the president of the Association of Disabled Fans of Zagłębie Sosnowiec claimed that: ‘We were not let into the stadium in Lodz. It was a painful act of discrimination towards the disabled and we have never been treated in such a way. We feel humiliated’. The spokesperson for Widzew Lodz **Marcin Olczyk** said that the disabled fans had not been let in for ‘security reasons’.

WROCLAW. On the night of 29/30 September in Gajowicka Street, ‘unknown perpetrators’ destroyed a mural promoting equality and respect for difference (the inscription stated ‘*Everyone different, all equal*’). The perpetrators covered the slogan with racist symbols of the Celtic cross, as well as with the abbreviation ‘GNLS’ (‘*Good Night Left Side*’, a slogan popular in neo-fascist circles) and ‘*F*ck Antifa*’ (expression of hatred for anti-fascist views). The mural was commissioned by the city authorities and painted in mid-September by Wrocław-based artist Grazyna Malkiewicz.

KRAKOW. On 30 September during a third division match **Garbarnia Krakow** and Bytovia Bytow, one of the local hooligans shouted racist slurs at a Bytovia, Brazil-born Luiz Carlos ‘Deleu’ Santos. Following the incident, Garbarnia fans sent apologies to Deleu. They wrote: ‘*We are very sorry that such an incident took place among us, fans who for years have been trying to stand out with positive chants. We absolutely condemn and reject the person responsible for that action. We promise to do our best so that such a situation never happens again at our stadium*’.

WROCLAW. On 30 September during a third division match Slask Wrocław II – **Motor Lublin**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner with the slogan ‘*Our honour is loyalty*’, paraphrasing a slogan used as the **SS** motto ‘*Meine Ehre Heisst Treue*’.



WARSAW. During the night of 30 September/1 October, ‘unknown perpetrators’ placed the following slogan on the front door of journalist Agata Kowalska and her partner’s apartment: ‘*F*ck LGBT*’. In a Twitter post, Kowalska described the incident as follows: ‘... *someone wrote a few words to me and my wife. We are wondering what to do. The flag [the rainbow flag, a symbol of sexual minorities] continues to fly*’. On 26 October, the journalist posted on Twitter about yet another attack and homophobic threat. ‘*Unknown perpetrators*’ painted a gallows with the inscription ‘*LGBT*’ on the front tenement house door where Kowalska lived.

OCTOBER 2020

BELCHATOW. The October issue of the football hooligan fanzine ‘*To My Kibice*’ (‘*It’s Us Fans*’) ran an article about **LKS Lomza** (fifth division) hooligans of. It was accompanied by an image of a scarf with a Totenkopf (used by the **SS** at the Nazi concentration camps) image. The scarf belonged to Serbian hooligans from the Belgrade-based club **FK Voždovac**, who form a radical group **Invalidi** and are friends with LKS hooligans.

LEGNICA. On 3 October during a second division match between **Miedz Legnica** and Chrobry Glogow, visiting fans displayed a banner with a so-called Totenkopf – symbol used during World War II by the **SS** in concentration camps (it presented a characteristic skull and crossbones).

NOWE MIASTO. On 4 October during a local match between **Sona Nowe Miasto** and Tecza Ojrzen, a player from the visiting team, Tunisian-born Lotfi Khadhraoui, was a victim of a racist incident. It was described by a representative of the Disciplinary Department of the local Football Association:

*'A player from Sona, **Michal Bandurski**, said to the Tunisian player: «F*ck off, dirty d*ck», while **Damian Mielczarek** hit him in the face. Bandurski was disqualified for two years, while Mielczarek – for 1.5 years. Lotfi Khadhraoui was said by the referee to have aggressively pushed one of the opposing players back and for that action was disqualified for three matches'.*

OPOLE. On 4 October during a second division match between **Odra Opole** and Arka Gdynia, local hooligans displayed a banner with the **Blood and Honour** logo, an international neo-Nazi organisation. Its name is derived from the motto of **Hitlerjugend**.

ZIELONA GORA. On 4 October during a fifth division match between Lechia II Zielona Gora and **KS Stilon Gorzow Wielkopolski**, visiting hooligans displayed a **Confederate** flag, used in XIX century in in the American Civil War by the South and nowadays by racist groups.

BORONICE. On 5 October, the performer Maciej Zimowski (aka Maciej Kaczka) posted a photograph on Twitter of a small building located in the Kazimierz district, on which someone had painted homophobic and antisemitic slogans and symbols. The facade featured a characteristic pornographic drawing (which is the logo of the *'No Faggotry'* campaign) with the caption, *'F*ck you faggots'* and a crossed out sign of the rainbow (a symbol of sexual minorities). To add to the hateful messages written on the walls of the building, one of the windows also showed a frame with the inscription, *'LGBT and Jew-free zone'*.

WARSAW. On 5 October, at the intersection of Saska and Zwyciezcow Streets, a 13-year-old boy of Vietnamese origin was the victim of xenophobic insults from an unidentified woman. When walking past the boy, the woman exclaimed, *'Put on a face mask, you f*cking Chinese!'*

WARSAW. On 6 October, in a program broadcast from the historic PAST building, shown on the YouTube channel **wRealu24** (online TV), the host **Marcin Rola** made the following statement: *'The PAST building is managed by the Polish Underground State Foundation, and believe me, no Jewish foundation can enter here'*. This was an openly antisemitic and discriminatory statement regarding the rules allegedly applicable to the PAST building. Later on, Rola continued to preach a bizarre conspiracy theory claiming that – in order to *'discredit him in front of the public'*, he was to be accused of being, *'backed by the Jews'*.

Since December 2018, the far-right channel wRealu24 has been based in Warsaw's PAST building – a symbol of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 – located right on the border of the former Warsaw Ghetto. Despite repeated protests organised by the *'NEVER AGAIN'* Association, the Warsaw authorities continue to ignore the purpose the building is being used for.

WARSAW. On 7 October, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, Dr. **Mira Modelska-Creech** (a university lecturer who has worked as a translator at the White House, the Pentagon and NASA, and who, in the 2019 Polish parliamentary election, ran as one of the far-right **Konfederacja's – Confederation's** party candidates) made homophobic and antisemitic claims. During the talk, Modelska-Creech declared that, *'LGBT is a kind of genocide'*, because it *'prevents procreation'*. She also claimed that in U.S. *'gay bars'* people conduct *'very cruel practices'*

[...], including adding various drugs to drinks’, and referred to LGBT issues as a problem of ‘psychopathology’. Modelska-Creech went on to say that, ‘LGBT advocacy is about taking over the power and wealth in the community’. She also referred to the antisemitic conspiracy theory, exclaiming, ‘And since in Marxist times... the first February revolution in Russia was carried out by Masonry and the second revolution was carried out by Jews, people say Jewish Masonry’.

POLAND. On 11 October, in response to a mocking, homophobic post by **Pawel Wyrzykowski** (the far-right **Konfederacja’s** – **Confederation’s** party leader in the Ostrolecko-Siedleckie district and a **Nowa Prawica** – **New Right**, political party candidate for the European Parliament in 2014), a Twitter user posted a video in which Wyrzykowski directed death threats towards immigrants. The video featured Wyrzykowski with a rifle in his hand, and a flag of **Freedom** (political party, also known as **KORWiN**, which is part of Konfederacja) in the background. When reloading the gun, he said, ‘We invite all immigrants for a freedom experience in *Lazy* [village on the sea], we are waiting for you on our beaches’. Wyrzykowski commented under the post, ‘Already in the past there were people who went with this video to the prosecutor’s office and fell on their stupid faces xD’. It has not been announced whether any proceedings have been initiated in this case.

WARSAW. On 13 October, on Mokotowska Street, an unidentified man spat on two women who were speaking to each other in English. The incident happened when one of the women, model Zuzanna Krzatala, was showing her friend from France, around the city. ‘A tall, skinny man in a black coat was walking in front of us. He was about 40/50-years-old. He looked ordinary, and did not attract our attention. Suddenly, when approaching the Faculty of Education of the University of Warsaw, the man turned around and walked towards us, whispering something under his breath. From his expression I could only understand the word «sluts». When reaching us, he spat in our faces and walked away as if nothing had happened’. The public prosecutor’s office was notified about this violation of personal integrity (private prosecution). The outcome of the investigation was not made public.

WARSAW. On 14 October, Marek Szolc, a city councilor, reported a homophobic incident that took place in one of the city’s housing estates. On the facade of a first floor apartment, in the window of which a rainbow flag was hanging, some ‘unknown perpetrators’ spray-painted the words, ‘F*ck LGBT’.

WARSAW. In mid-October, singer **Edyta Gorniak** shared an antisemitic post on her Instagram profile. It included a drawing depicting a stereotypical image of a Jew with money, accompanied by the following text: ‘One Jew asks another Jew, when will the pandemic end? – Isaak be wise. Serious people have invested serious money. If they earn the money back, then it will end’. To this post, Gorniak attached her own comment, which said, ‘That’s the reality my dears. No comment’, emphasising her support for the conspiracy theory blaming Jews for profiting from the coronavirus pandemic.



to the reality) that these demonstrations were organised by, ‘*mainly LGBT activists, I already recognise these militias*’. This manipulated version of events served as a pretext to express the following: ‘*We are getting closer and closer to the moment when all of these discussions come to an end. I have the feeling that left-wing activists do not realise that if they really want a physical confrontation, I can immediately call the guys from ONR [Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny – National-Radical Camp, far-right group – ed.] and then we shall see how long will those «fisduisie» [derived from ‘pizda’ – ‘pizdusie’, which is an insulting term for LGBT people – ed.] in skinny jeans last. Let’s see if they really want to talk this way then*’. During the conversation, Ziemkiewicz also called Joe Biden (the Democratic Party candidate for the President of the United States at that time) ‘*a moldy, old pedophile*’. The program was also published on the Telewizja Republika’s channel on YouTube.

ILAWA. On 25 October, in Wyszynskiego Street, during a street protest organised in defence of women’s and minority rights, a representative of the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) committed violence against the participants of the demonstration. Monika Falej, an MP of Lewica (Left party) reported, ‘*I was attacked by a Konfederacja politician from Ilawa. I don’t want to give him the exposure and the satisfaction, so I won’t say his full name. **Lukasz T.** ran for the Senate on their behalf. [...] He disrupted a peaceful protest in Ilawa. He threw himself at a group of young girls, he pushed one of them into the bushes, he also pushed me*’. She added, ‘*I said I was an MP, but neither the police nor the priests responded to my cries for help*’. The MP has made an official complaint to the police regarding the violation of her bodily integrity during the performance of her official duties.

WARSAW. On 25 October and in the days that followed, radical-right representatives and football hooligans attacked people protesting on the streets against violations of women’s rights. **Robert Bakiewicz**, a former activist in the far-right **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)** and now the leader of the **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci (March of Independence Association)** and the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, took an active role in these events.

- On 25 October, on the stairs of the Church of the Holy Cross on Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street, Bakiewicz attacked a social activist Katarzyna Augustynek, also known as *babcia Kasia* (Grandma Kasia). He ripped off a rainbow coloured (symbol of the LGBT community) shawl from her shoulders. Some shoving took place, and the right-wing activists demanded that the police remove the woman, to which one of the police officers responded, ‘*We do not escort. We can only secure. If you lot want to remove her – go ahead*’. When one of the aggressive men asked once again, ‘*Should we remove this woman?*’ the police officer responded by saying, ‘*I don’t know, this is your area*’. On Bakiewicz’s orders and with the affirmation from the police, the woman was forcibly removed from the stairs by two men. [Katarzyna Augustynek brought a private prosecution against Bakiewicz (the Public Prosecutor’s Office refused to initiate proceedings in this case). On 7 March 2023, the District Court in Warszawa-Srodmiestecie found him guilty of hooliganism and sentenced him to a year of community service at 30 hours a month].

- On the same day, both Bakiewicz and his supporters tugged and pushed other protesters from the church's stairs – with no reaction from the police. One young woman, was brutally beaten and thrown to the ground to the extent that an ambulance had to be called.
- On Bakiewicz's orders, two men removed civic journalist Włodzimierz Ciejka, who was recording the events that took place during the protest. In this case the police officers also failed to react.
- **Karol G.**, aka '**Fidel**' also took part in the events on Krakowskie Przedmieście Street. He is a longstanding activist of the radical right, who, in 2006, attacked Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich in Warsaw by punching his chest, spraying his face with pepper spray, and yelling '*Poland for Polish people*'. He was sentenced to two years in prison with five years' probation.
- On 25 October, **Tomasz Kalinowski**, a former Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp) spokesperson, and a deputy-leader of the Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodległości (March of Independence Association), claimed on Twitter that the members of his formation '*were given permission*' from the priest of the Church of the Holy Cross parish, to '*escort*' people from the church's premises. Kalinowski added that '*the police confirmed it*'. This version of events was also presented by the parish priest **Zygmunt Berdychowski**. In an interview with OKO.press (investigative portal) he expressed gratitude for those who supposedly '*protected*' the church, and called the women's rights protesters a rioting '*mob*'.
- On 25 October, Green party activist Norbert Wozniak posted on his Twitter account that he, and people accompanying him, were attacked, '*by fascists, right after leaving the protest*'. He reported that, '*They tried to take our Green party flag. They didn't succeed, my ear was the only thing hit. The police intervened, the fascists ran away*'.
- On 25 October **Stanisław Michalkiewicz**, a far-right propagandist connected to **Radio Maryja** (a Catholic-nationalist radio station with a long record of antisemitic statements) for years, posted a comment on his website about the protests against the violation of women's rights. In his statement, he disseminated antisemitic conspiracy theories about the supposed '*instigators and sponsors*' of these protests. According to Michalkiewicz, the women, '*are protesting against everything, that the merciless, old, Jewish financial conman tells them to, as he paid 18 billion dollars for these protests. What the conman gets from this and what the Judeo-communists expect from this investment, is a separate issue*'. He later claimed that, '*the Judeo-communists are at the revolutionary frontlines not only in Belarus, but also in Poland, they push «women»* [Michalkiewicz writes this word in quotation marks – ed.], and continued to project his vision, according to which, '*«women» and their Judeo-communist instigators*' are freeloading, '*off the society, where, with the power of inertia, the remnants of ethics and Christian morality persist. But it is precisely towards their destruction that the Judeo-communists are working persistently to destroy, and therefore they will probably see a next Hitler, who will either propose new ethics, or reactivate previous ones*'. At the end, he once again pointed to the supposed '*instigators*' of the Women's Strike, writing that, '*the targets of the attacks are Catholic churches – not mosques, not synagogues just churches. Because the eternal enemy of Christianity has been, and still is, Jews, that's why there is convincing evidence to confirm suspicions of inspiration from the old Jewish racketeers and that community*'.

- On 26 October, during a conference in front of the Church of the Holy Cross, Bakiewicz announced the creation of the so-called **Straz Narodowa (National Guard)**, consisting mainly of members of the far-rights groups: **Mlodziez Wszepolska (All-Polish Youth)** and the Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp), that is supposed to form a *‘Catholic and civilizational self-defence’* against women’s rights protesters. In his speech, Bakiewicz threatened the protesters – he claimed that there will be *‘no more pacifist stance’* and he announced that, *‘These people want to ruin and squash us. From this place, I am saying that the sword of justice is hanging above them and if need be, we will squash them to dust and destroy this revolution’*.
- On 26 October on Trzech Krzyzy Square, in front of the St. Alexander Church, a couple of men from the so-called National Guard attacked the Women’s Strike. Police arrested three attackers. There were also other attacks perpetrated by the far-right and **Legia Warszawa** football hooligans. Some of them had scarves containing the racist symbol of the Celtic cross.
- Women’s Strike activist Klementyna Suchanow, posted on her Twitter account that she was attacked on Trzech Krzyzy Square by three men, who tackled her to the ground, and kicked her.
- Another Women’s Strike participant, actress Julia Wroblewska reported about the Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp) attack, on social media. She shared this comment on Instagram: *‘I suffered hits to my shoulders, hips and kidneys. I will have bruises, but I’m staying. How the f*ck can you hit a woman that’s smaller than you by 30cm and 50kg?’* and a picture of herself with hit marks on her back and hand.
- On 26 October, Robert Bakiewicz shared a comment on Twitter, in which he praised the acts of the National Guard. He announced that, *‘the attack of leftist barbarians on the St. Alexander Church in Warsaw was repelled!’* His statement, together with a picture of radical right supporters, was shared by **Solidarna Polska (United Poland)** party MP **Jacek Ozdoba**, who is a deputy minister in the Ministry of Climate and Environment. Ozdoba also congratulated Bakiewicz and his supporters by saying, *‘Respect, Gentlemen’*, together with a symbol of a celebratory thumbs up. Similar words of support came from **Sebastian Kaleta**, a Solidarna Polska party MP and deputy minister in the Ministry of Justice, who shared Bakiewicz’s statement and commented on it with an emoji of clapping hands.
- On 28 October, the Ombudsman’s office reported that one of the arrested protesters filed a complaint against the police officers involved due to their homophobic conduct. According to the Ombudsman’s office, the man, *‘had numerous visible injuries (on the face, around his throat, arms and legs). [...] His statement indicated that after being arrested, he was beaten in the police car by the police officers. [...] The arrestee was choked, kicked on the legs and punched with fists in leather gloves. He reported painful forms of restraint were used on him’*. The man informed the civil servants that he police officers used homophobic slurs such as *‘faggsott’* and *‘pussies’* and made fun of his sexual orientation. One of the policemen also suggested he *‘go solo’* in the police car.
- On 30 October, the radical right attacked the Women’s Strike once again. Before the protest even started, the hooligans on Zamkowy Square threw flares at the protesters. *‘Gazeta Wyborcza’* newspaper reported that the actions had been pre-planned and they were in accordance with instructions to, *‘blend into the crowds of protesters and start the attack on a signal. «That’s when we start kicking out the leftists from the march. We do not beat the women,*

but as a last resort we might spray them in the face»’. In the Old Town, the attackers, who were screaming ‘*F*ck Antifa*’, tried to run into the crowds of protesters. Some of them were beating random people with telescopic batons.

- On de Gaulle roundabout, the attackers assaulted protesters with telescopic batons and pepper spray, and also threw firecrackers at them. One of the victims was Jan Spiewak from the Free City Warsaw Association, who was intentionally hit in the face with a lit flare.
- During the attacks, Prof. Krzysztof Piech was also injured. He posted a video on Twitter with the comment, ‘*I was hit in the head with something from behind. A Nazi took my phone and threw it away. Another one picked it up and threw it on the ground. But he gave it back afterwards. But he could have f*cked me up with a metal pole, which he was holding in the other hand...*’.
- Violence against the Women’s Strike also broke out in Aleje Ujazdowskie Street, in front of the Prime Minister’s Office. The victim was a Koalicja Obywatelska (Civic Coalition, a major coalition of liberal parties) MP, Bartłomiej Sienkiewicz, who was sprayed with pepper spray. He reported on Twitter, that ‘*I was just sprayed with pepper spray while trying to intervene as an MP – a group of fascists attacked people. When trying to separate the fascists, I was injured*’.
- On Bankowy Square, people leaving from the protests were attacked. A couple of men threw rocks and firecrackers at them.
- On 31 October, during a press conference, Warsaw’s Police Command reported that 35 football hooligans had been detained, among whom were participants in the attacks in the Old Town and on de Gaulle roundabout. The police officers found telescopic batons, pepper spray and pyrotechnic equipment in their possession.
- On 1 November, on the ‘*Kawa na lawe*’ programme on the TVN24 channel, while talking about the protests against the violation of women’s rights, **Anna Milczanowska**, an MP from **Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice)**, who was against those protests, appealed to the protesters by saying, ‘*Why don’t you go to the synagogue?!*’
- On 28 December, the District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Warszawa-Srodmiescie Polnoc discontinued the investigation into an attack on a woman by members of the extreme right. The woman was pushed down the stairs of the Church of St. Cross on Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street and suffered injuries. The Prosecutor considered that her injuries had arisen ‘*in an unspecified manner*’ and that ‘*no public interest would be served by any official investigation*’.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 27 October, on the official Twitter profile of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, appeared an entry commemorating... the anniversary of the visit of one of the main leaders of Nazi Germany, **Heinrich Himmler** (a war criminal, the head of the **SS**, Gestapo and the German police, responsible for the process of extermination of Jews in Europe). The content of this entry was as follows: ‘*On 27 October 1940, the Jasna Gora Sanctuary was visited by Heinrich Himmler, Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of Germanness. The Nazi leader was surprised to learn that before the war the place was visited by more than a million pilgrims a year*’. The publication was accompanied by photographs documenting the event, showing Himmler standing among the Pauline monks. The entry on Jasna Gora’s profile saw a wave of user criticism and was removed shortly after. Later it turned out that the same material commemorating Himmler’s visit was also posted on the Twitter account of the Czestochowa sanctuary also in 2018 and 2019 (these posts have not yet been removed).

The post published on Jasna Gora's profile was received positively by the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) MP **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**. On Twitter, he posted a comment contradicting historical knowledge about the policies and war crimes of the Third Reich: *'In 1940, Henrik Himmler was still a fairly normal minister of occupied Poland, Third Reich: a legal, internationally recognised state with a democratically elected socialist in power'*.

ILAWA. On 27 October 'unknown perpetrators' spilled paint on the window and house façade of one of the organisers of the street protests in defence of women's rights and the rights of minorities. The window displayed posters in support of the LGBT community. According to the victim, the damage was done by nationalist groups from Ilawa, who encouraged aggression towards her on social media. She stated: *'I think that this devastation of property is a direct result of the posts about starting «a game» with me. After the damage, they posted that «they cannot admit it, but they could already award points in the game». The Facebook posts are now gone'*.

NOVEMBER 2021

WARSAW. On 1 November, a far right the YouTube channel **Media Narodowe (National Media)** broadcasted a video, entitled **'Kill Bur' ('Zabic Bura')**, where they expressed words of support for **Janusz Walus**, a Polish migrant given a life sentence for a racist murder in South African Republic. In 1993 he murdered Chris Hani, a politician who fought apartheid. During filming, the Media Narodowe representatives visited Walus in prison in Pretoria. The interview was not filmed, but the published video recalled some of his statements. Walus once again stated that the murder he committed was justified.

'Kill Bur' ('Zabic Bura') is a film produced in 2020 by **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)** and Media Narodowe. The film was narrated by **Rafał Zygiel** – a long time radio and television host, radio narrator (he had a couple thousand productions), and a lecturer of the AGH University of Science and Technology.

POZNAN. On the night of 5/6 November on Limanowskiego Street, football hooligans of **Lech Poznan** devastated the premises of a vegan pizzeria. They painted signs of the Celtic cross (indicating the so-called supremacy of the white race), on the facade of the building together with the slogan *'F*ck Antifa'*, thus expressing hostility towards anti-fascist movements. In a media statement, the owners of the premises referred to the ideologically motivated reasons for this attack: *'We believe in equality and diversity. We oppose any discrimination against any minority. We are involved in various actions. Our premises will never be an LGBT-free zone, quite the opposite'*. They also explained that there had been other attacks: *'From the very beginning we have encountered minor or major acts of aggression. We have had visits from «helpful» people wearing balaclavas and threatening us with demolition of the premises. The tyres on the car of our disabled co-founder are regularly slashed though it is always parked in the disabled drivers' place. [...] We reported such cases to the police, but they did not proceed with our complaints; the street monitoring is not working'*. In response to the devastation of the pizzeria, fans of Lech Poznan posted a statement on their Facebook profile in which they distanced themselves from the perpetrators of the attack. They also confirmed that they had: *'contacted the representatives of the restaurant and unambiguously*

offered help in removing paint from the facade. At the moment, we are waiting for the building administration's confirmation that the cleaning may commence'.

PLESZEW. On 6 November, a spokesperson for the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Ostrow Wlkp., Maciej Meler informed that a 32-year-old resident of Pleszew, **Przemyslaw R.**, was sentenced for *'public incitement of ethnic, racial or religious hatred. With his post, he insulted followers of the Islamic faith and women who are in relationships with Muslims'*. The man posted this comment on social media: *'This is no longer a Polish woman but a Muslim slut! A Polish woman living with a Muslim is no longer Polish!'* The District Court in Pleszew decided on a punishment of a fine of 2 thousand PLN and obliged him to cover the legal costs.

WARSZAWA. On 6 November, during a programme *'Poland for a good morning'* broadcasted on the **Telewizja Republika (TV Republic)**, a far-right propagandist of that channel **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** made a xenophobic comment. When talking about protests against sanitary restrictions introduced in various countries because of the coronavirus pandemic, he claimed that the French have *'the potential for street thuggery [...] in their genes, in their blood since the French revolution'*. This recording was also published on the Telewizja Republika channel on YouTube.

WARSAW. On 11 November, riots and acts of violence were committed by participants of the so-called Independence March, far-right manifestation organised by the **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci (March of Independence Association)** led by **Robert Bakiewicz**. The gathering was illegal because the Warsaw authorities had refused to consent to its organization. This decision to ban the march has been challenged on two occasions, but upheld by a Warsaw court both times.

At the de Gaulle roundabout, some of the participants of the march threw flares, stones and cobble stones at police officers and journalists, others used the poles of the Polish flags they were carrying to hit their victims. Officers used tear gas and smoothbore weapons. The demonstrators also attacked police officers in the vicinity of the National Museum, where they threw paving slabs at the officers and the safety barriers and threw electric scooters at the building itself. Moreover, they partially burned down a bicycle rental station on Marszalkowska Street. In addition, Karolina Galecka, a spokesperson for the Capital City Hall, issued a statement that an attempt had been made to set fire to the door of one of the City Hall offices on Aleje Jerozolimskie.

On the way to the surroundings of the National Stadium, on 3 Maja Avenue, participants of the march torched a tenement house, which displayed banners with the symbol of the Women's Strike and a rainbow flag (a symbol of the LGBT community) in its windows, causing a fire in one of the apartments. When firefighters arrived, one of the demonstrators shouted, *'Leave it, don't put it out! Let the w*ore burn!'* The shouting was recorded by the internet portal Democ. In a statement given to the media, the press officer of the Mazovian Province Commander of the State Fire Service Karol Kierzkowski confirmed that *'the fire was quite intense and only the very quick reaction of the building's residents prevented a major tragedy'*. It later transpired that the apartment set on fire was the art studio of Stefan Okolowicz, an eminent expert on the works of Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz (1885-1939, a Polish writer, painter, philosopher, theorist, playwright).

The participants of the March chanted '*F*ck Antifa*', carried banners containing the phrase '*White pride*' and the racist symbol of the Celtic cross, with some also wearing scarves and clothing displaying this sign. Participants carried numerous banners containing the so-called falanga symbol, depicting a hand with a sword, which is a pre-war Polish fascist sign, used today by the extreme right. Many also carried flags with characteristic graphics encouraging ideological violence, namely an attacker kicking a man lying on the ground and the slogan '*Good night left side*', which is commonly used by neo-fascist groups. In addition, demonstrators displayed the flags of the fascist Italian party **Fuorza Nuova**, as well as the **Confederation** flag used in the American Civil War in 1861-1865, and today considered a symbol of racial persecution. During this so-called Independence March, antisemitic content was also disseminated. On the organizer's truck there was a large banner with the slogan, '*No to the Jewish [financial – ed.] claims*'.

On the grounds around the National Stadium, demonstrators attacked the police once again with flares and paving stones. There were clashes at the Warszawa Stadion railway station during which a man of Asian origin was injured after being hit by tear gas. The man was helped by journalists, including Renata Kim from '*Newsweek*', who reported that, '*The staggering, terrified Asian, with his face covered with yellow slime, covered his eyes and begged for help. He shouted in Polish that he couldn't see anything. Journalists rushed to help. They handed out handkerchiefs, vials with saline solution, and called for an ambulance. Luckily, one was already in the vicinity. The police officers standing around the station did not respond to requests for help. We screamed but they stood motionless, unmoved*'.

According to the police, demonstrators set off flares and firecrackers at the National Stadium, where a temporary hospital for coronavirus patients was located. They also blocked the access routes for ambulances and supply trucks carrying respirators.

On 12 November, a spokesperson for the Warsaw Police Headquarters, Superintendent Sylwester Marczak stated that 35 policemen were injured during the march. He added that, '*In total, over 300 people were detained. 270 cases were preventive detentions, i.e. those where the persons were released after formalities were carried out. We had over 40 criminal incidents and 36 people were detained in relation to those. We are talking here, amongst other things, about the violation of bodily inviolability and about active participation in a gathering*'. The police officers secured telescopic batons, a stun gun and weapons from some of the participants.

On 14 November, in Bialystok, the police arrested a man suspected of setting fire to the apartment on 3 Maja Avenue during this so-called Independence March. It was established that he was associated with the football hooligan community. As the Warsaw Police Headquarters informed us, the man was detained just before he tried to leave Poland (he intended to go to one of the Benelux countries). The District Prosecutor's Office in Warszawa Srodmiescie-Polnoc charged him with '*bringing about the immediate danger of an event threatening the life and health of at least a dozen people, by causing a fire*'. An application for the temporary arrest of the suspect was submitted to the court.

A conspiracy theory relating to the acts of violence during the so-called Independence March, was published by, among others, the far-right columnist **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**. On 11 November, he posted a video on his YouTube channel, in which he presented the aggressive participants of the demonstration as victims. He stated that, *'It simply beggars belief that quite soon, or in a few months, a year at the latest, it will not transpire in some overheard conversations that the arson on the apartment during the Independence March, the alleged attack on Empik [a commercial chain selling books – ed.] and the National Stadium was a trick, a provocation, was the work of paid thugs, that is, criminals specially engaged by the state. After all, it stinks of Bartłomiej Sienkiewicz [Minister of Internal Affairs in the government of the Civic Platform in 2013-2014 – ed.] and closely resembles the situation before 2015'*. Ziemkiewicz also added that *'patriots are being labelled as bandits in order to provoke left-wing bandits into attacks on patriots'*. Furthermore, he announced that *'Antifa had already gained, as did the SA [Sturmabteilung, Nazi militias – ed.] in the days of Adolf Hitler in Germany, the status of auxiliary police, because it clearly looked as if the state services were protecting leftist militants or cooperating with them in breaking up the Independence March'*.

In mid-January 2021, the capital's authorities confirmed the financial losses incurred by the city in connection with the damage caused by participants of the so-called Independence March. The damage included torn-out posts and cobblestones, the burning of office doors and of the Veturilo station (bicycle rental). The cost of cleaning and repairing the damage amounted to over PLN 29,000.

Also in mid-January 2021, the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Warszawa-Praga Poludnie discontinued their investigation of a participant in the March, who raised his hand on the Poniatowski Bridge in a gesture resembling a Nazi salute. A photographer who posted his photo on the Internet reported, *'I noticed a man in a white and red scarf. [...] I approached and aimed my camera at him. As I was taking the picture, the man raised his right hand in a gesture of «Heil Hitler».* He didn't speak, didn't smile. He didn't make any suggestion that it was a joke. He just «heiled» and moved on'. In connection with this incident, the District Police initiated but then discontinued proceedings relating to the public promotion of fascism.

On 17 June, 2021 the District Court in Warsaw-Srodmiescie found the accused **Piotr K.** guilty of setting fire to an apartment in Avenue 3 Maja during the so-called Independence March and sentenced him to 10 months imprisonment.

DREZDENKO. On 14 November during a local match between **Lubuszanin Drezdenko** and Celuloza Kostrzyn nad Odra, local hooligans displayed a banner with the slogan *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'* (in contemporary context it is used by extreme nationalists to call for ideologically motivated violence).

BANIOCHA. On 14 November during a local match between **Orzel Baniocha** and **GLKS Nadarzyn**, hooligans of both teams (friendly to each other) displayed a flag with the slogan: *'Anti Antifa'*, a sign of their hatred towards anti-fascist attitudes.

BLONIE. On 21 November during a fourth division match between **Blonianka Blonie** and Polonia Warszawa, some local hooligans in the stadium shouted racist slurs at a Polonia player, Dutch-born Junior Radzinski. Following the incident, Polonia Warszawa issued the following statement: *'This is the kind of behaviour that our Club - the board, employees, coaches, players, people at the Academy and our community - strongly oppose. It runs against our ideals and principles. Hatred and aggression should be punished in sports. Junior, we at Polonia are one and we will always be there for you!'*

KRAKOW. On 23 November, on Berka Joselewicza street, a security guard in a Biedronka store attacked a client – a Polish national of Russian descent. After the man paid his bill and went out on the street, he was assaulted. He reported: *'I was almost at the bus stop when I felt three strong hits to my back – I turned around and saw a fat man about 25 years old, who grabbed my hands and tried to do something with them. [...] I realised that I am dealing with a security guard, that's what was written on his distinctive outfit. When I realised who this man was, I asked him with a characteristic eastern accent what is happening. Hearing foreign sounds this man threw me to the ground, sat on my spine and started to put handcuffs on me'*. The victim was screaming for help but no passers-by reacted. The security guard yelled at him: *'Shut up you f*cking Ukrainian'* and sprayed him with pepper spray in the eyes. He cuffed him and forcefully dragged him to the store. When it turned out that the man had a receipt for his shopping, the security guard (employed by a security agency **Argus**) removed his cuffs. *'He didn't say anything to me. Didn't apologise for making a mistake, he just threw me out'* – the victim reported. When he found the store manager... she denied him any help. *'I had horrible pain in my eyes, I wanted to rinse them with water. Only when I called the police I was let to use the water faucet'* – he said. The man tried to report the assault multiple times at the police precinct on Szeroka street, but he was sent away by the officers. The Lewica (Left party) MP Daria Gosek-Popiolek intervened in his case with the municipal police chief.

The victim also tried to contact the representatives of Biedronka multiple times. His messages were first ignored. After the media gave the case publicity, a representative of the chain called him with apologies. She ensured him that the store will take an *'official stance in the case'*. This did not happen, and after the man contacted the customer advocate at Biedronka a couple days later, he heard that... *'there was a misunderstanding'*.

The client assaulted by the security guard comes from Russia and has Polish roots. Since 2015 he lives in Poland with his family and since 2019 he holds a Polish citizenship. In a press statement he informed about two previous xenophobic incidents that he experienced together with his father. They were verbally assaulted by football hooligans and also a group of young people.

RADOMSKO. On 25 November, during a council session for the Radomszczanski region, the councillors rejected a civic draft bill about commemorating the memory of Jewish residents of Przedborze murdered on 27 May, 1945 by the soldiers of the 1st battalion campaign of the **Brygada Swietokrzyska** (the **Holy Cross Mountains Brigade**; this was the only Polish formation which collaborated with the Nazi occupiers during World War II. The Brigade murdered members of the left-wing resistance movement and people presumed of Jewish origin) of the **National Armed Forces**, led by **Wladyslaw Kolacinski** aka **'Zbik'**. During the session, the head of city council of Przedborze, **Krzysztof Zawisza**, denied – despite historical facts – the role of National Armed Forces

in the antisemitic massacre: ‘This entire communist discourse, that runs back to the 27 May 1945, which insists that these murders were committed by soldiers under General «**Zbik**», is a complete lie’. In an academic article on this topic Prof. Joanna Tokarska-Bakir emphasised that all Jews were murdered in the massacre *‘that could be found at that time, and this fact allows us to classify what happened in Przedborze as ethnic cleansing’*.

NOWA RUDA. On 29 November, **Piast Nowa Ruda** football hooligans demolished the headquarters of a local weekly, *‘Gazeta Noworudzka’*. Two men smashed the windows and threw butyric acids. As a result, it was necessary to undertake fumigation and replace furniture. According to the staff, the attack was revenge for running stories about the criminal activities of local hooligans, including drug trafficking, assaults and theft. Pawel Golak, the editor-in-chief, said: *‘The police unofficially confirms that it was done by local hooligans. [...] it’s not the first time that we have been attacked for what we write’*. At the end of October 2020 *‘Gazeta Noworudzka’* published information about the Women’s Strike and hooligans who gathered at the local church in response. A few days later, the Facebook page of **GKS Piast Nowa Ruda** posted insults about the weekly. The post contained a doctored cover page of weekly and personal attacks on its editor-in-chief. One of the hooligans posted an antisemitic comment about Pawel Golak: *‘He’d do everything to increase the sales of this crap, a typical jew [sic!]’*.

DECEMBER 2020

BELCHATOW. The December issue of the football hooligan magazine *‘To My Kibice’* (*‘It’s Us Fans’*) featured an article about **Polonia Warszawa**, with pictures taken at its matches. One image presented a Nazi banner displayed on the fences around the pitch, containing a Totenkopf symbol (used during World War II by the **SS** at concentration camps).

RADWANKOW KROLEWSKI. On 2 December, Culturovo Twitter profile published the news that *‘unknown perpetrators’* had placed a placard that imitated a road sign, which read: *‘Just 447. Stop the Jewish demands!’* by road number 801, which is close to a village in the Otwock region. This slogan was a reference to the so-called Act 447: the Justice for Holocaust Survivors Act which was passed in 2018 in the US and is falsely portrayed by supporters of the far right as an order for Poland to pay the alleged ‘Jewish claims’).

OSTROW WIELKOPOLSKI. On 12 December, on Raszkowska Street, three perpetrators attacked a man wearing a rainbow coloured facemask. *‘When they saw me, they started throwing homophobic insults at me, «f*cking faggot» and so on. [...] One tried to rip off my mask. Another started to pull on my backpack where I had rainbow pins. I dodged those moves. The younger one punched me in the face. Another one kicked me. They aggressively asked if I didn’t have more of those face masks’*, reported the victim. The man was punched in the eye and ended up in hospital. On 14 December, he filed a report about the assault. On the same day in a store, which he went to on his way to the police station, one of the clients threatened him, by saying *‘We are waiting for you outside faggot’*.

The victim is an LGBT activist, a resident of Kalisz and the organiser of the first Equality March in that city. Earlier, in November, he experienced homophobic aggression in Ostrow Wielkopolski. In a media statement he said, *'I was sitting in the hall of Centrum Przesiadkowe [interchange center]. In the daylight, with CCTV in operation, when a couple of men approached me, ripped off my mask and ran away'*.

BOLESŁAWIEC. On 13 December, on the anniversary of martial law (introduced in 1981), at the local Solidarity monument, **Zaglebie Lubin** hooligans and members of the far-right group **Narodowy Boleslawiec (National Boleslawiec)** displayed a banner which called for violence against 'ideological enemies': it depicted an often-used symbol of a man kicking his victim on the ground, along with a slogan often used by neo-fascists, *'Good night left side'*.

WARSAW / SZCZECIN. On 17 December, the Internal Security Agency and the West Pomeranian Branch of the Department for Organized Crime and Corruption of the National Prosecutor's Szczecin Office concluded their investigation into a potential bomb attack on Muslims. The investigation focused on three men, including two accused of *'conspiring to prepare events that would threaten the lives or health of many people or cause serious damage to property, through detonating explosives'*. According to the investigators, the attack was to be carried out on *'a specific religious object of the Islamic community'*. The perpetrators also planned to *'spread poisonous substances amongst certain people'*, and their actions were intended to *'prevent the Islamization of Poland'*. The prosecutor's office said that *'the accused held extreme right-wing views, with one of them publicly indicating a need to exterminate religious groups, and calling for violence and committing crimes and hatred based on national, ethnic, racial and religious differences'*. The second of the perpetrators produced a study resembling a manifesto, which verbalised his personal prejudices including Islamophobia, and called for the persecution of newcomers to Poland through violence and intimidation as well as the use of firearms and explosives. According to the prosecution, the men wished to follow the examples of the terrorist attacks carried out by **Anders Breivik** in Norway (2011) and **Brenton Tarrant** in New Zealand (2019). During the investigation explosives several items were seized, including four firearms, a homemade submachine gun and ammunition, as well as products and tools enabling the production of explosives, pyrotechnic substances and drugs. It was also revealed that one of the perpetrators had manufactured firearms, ammunition and explosives.

On 4 January, 2021 an indictment against these three men was submitted to the Regional Court in Warsaw. Two were accused of preparing for the detonation of explosives, which would threaten the lives and health of people. Further allegations concerned the production and possession of firearms without the required permits. One of the men was additionally accused of creating a document in which he incited hatred on the basis of ethnic and religious differences. The third of the accused was charged with possession of materials for the production of explosives without the required permits.

POZNAN. On 22 December, on Glogowska Street, in front of the entrance to the Western Railway Station, an unidentified attacker assaulted a gay couple who were holding hands. He threw insults at them such as *'faggots'*, *'lesbians'* and *'F*ck you'*, then pulled out a knife and started walking

towards them. One of the victims, the leader of the Youth City Council of Poznan, Kacper Nowicki, reported that, *'The [railway station's] security heard that the man was screaming and reacted immediately. They ran towards him and separated him from us'*. Nowicki filed a police report regarding the criminal threats. Proceedings have been launched in this case. On 7 May, 2021, the Poznan-Nowe Miasto District Court found the suspect guilty and sentenced him to 540 hours of community service. He was also banned from having any contact with the victims.

POLAND. On 24 December, **Radoslaw Przybysz**, an employee of **TVP Sport** (state-owned sport news channel), posted an offensive entry on Twitter about Mohamed Salah, an Egyptian playing for Liverpool FC. Commenting on the Christmas photo of Mr Salah with his wife and children, Przybysz wrote: *'Muslim Salah is decorating a Christmas tree. I know that Christmas has not been about Jesus for a long time, but this still looks absurd'*. In response to one of the critical comments below his post, Przybysz continued his insults against Salah: *'Okay, maybe I did not think that his wife might be a Christian, and that raising children in England it might be hard for them to avoid Christmas [in fact, the wife of the footballer Magi Sadeq also comes from Egypt and is a Muslim – ed.]. Since everyone is celebrating all around, let them celebrate. On the other hand though, I remember him as an unrepentant Islamist, anti-Semite, and I see a certain opportunism in displaying the photo'* (Twitter, 25 December). Mohamed Salah is an outstanding footballer, who won the Champions League with Liverpool in 2019. He is also known for social and charity activities. He is regarded as a symbol of intercultural reconciliation, helping to overcome stereotypes about Muslims.

YEAR 2021

JANUARY

POLAND. In January, February, March and April, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association reported – as part of the Get the Trolls Out project against online hate speech – numerous antisemitic comments on various social media platforms, containing violence and death threats. The antisemitic comments have appeared in relation to the situation in the Middle East. A few selected examples of such posts made on Twitter follow [original spelling in some suggests lack of respect – translator's note]: *'There is a cure for them. It is called Zyklon B'* (20 January), *'Destroy israel, burn the jews'* – this comment was published together with a drawing depicting the US President Joe Biden wearing a swastika armband, and also featured a so-called black sun (a Nazi symbol) in the background (5 February), *'Hitler was f*cked up but... At least there aren't that many jews in Europe anymore'* (9 February), *'They should be burned in the oven like the Jews'* (18 March), *'jews and slaves are the same thing, you need to enslave them, put them to work, pay them in lashes and a bowl of rice'* (26 March). Many of these comments were deleted by Twitter thanks to the intervention of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association.

LUBLIN. In January, at headquarters of a bank, a Black woman from Tanzania was harassed and called racist names. Two persons shouted at her, *'foreigners had brought coronavirus to Poland'*, and told her to leave the country. A witness to this event, a young man, stood up for the woman.

BELCHATOW. The January issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')*, with close ties to far right, featured an editorial by its editor-in-chief **Michał 'Tifosifoto' Strzelec**, which was filled with bigotry and homophobia. He wrote: *'How are we supposed to understand the rule of law? [...] Maybe it's all the harm done to indigenous people by engineers, IT specialists and doctors from Africa and the Middle and Far East? [...] or maybe it happens when hordes of despicable freaks roam our street [...]'*. And he continued this kind of delusional banter in the following way: *'Can someone tell me what the rule of law is going to look like in 30 years in France, Germany and other progressive countries, when they accept the law of Islam in a democratic procedure? How will the EU rules look then? Will they be shaped by local imams or by the federal one? He also supported violence and brutality at stadiums: This is no place for democracy – the stadium has always been a place for iron fist and will continue to be so [...]. Our stands – our rules. Let's follow them and let's not accept democracy among us'*.

BELCHATOW. The January issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')*, with close ties to far right, featured an article about the hooligans of **Stilon Gorzów Wielkopolski**, with pictures taken at its matches. Some of them showed a **Confederate** flag (which was used during the American Civil War by the southern states fighting to maintain slavery and is now considered a symbol of racial discrimination).

OLSZTYN. On 1 January local media reported a spread of racist stickers on the streets, signed by hooligans of **Stomil Olsztyn**. It depicted a Celtic cross (a symbol of the so-called *'white power'*) and a **Ku-Klux-Klan** member doing a Nazi salute.



WYSOKIE MAZOWIECKIE On 3 January, it was reported on social media that *'unknown perpetrators'* had destroyed a plaque on the fence of the Jewish cemetery. The plaque announced planned building works to erect a monument commemorating the Jewish inhabitants of Wysokie Mazowieckie. The vandals painted the plaque with graffiti saying, *'This is Poland, not Israel'*.

POLAND. On 9 January, Ola Petrus, a comedian and an activist, made a post on Facebook in which she described a wave of hatred and discriminatory online comments relating to her height. Their authors called her e.g. *'a dwarf'*, and *'a circus curiosity'*. The insults against Petrus appeared in reaction to her critical commentary against a stand-up comedian Rafal Paczes. During one of his performances, Paczes mocked people of short stature by saying that he might come on stage *'piggybacking a female dwarf'*. He also added his surprise that *'people might say that this is supposedly a human being'*. Ola Petrus referred to his words as follows: *'It attacks a group of people who are not necessarily able to defend themselves. People whose lives are seriously affected by such stereotypes'*. In a statement issued a few days later, the activist added, *'I thought I had the strength to fight for something. [...] and to do it publicly. Let the dehumanisation stop. Let the connotations with the circus stop. Let the use of the pejorative word stop. I thought that the times of weeping at*

home because someone had been shouting, «dwarf, dwarf», in my direction were behind me, but, unfortunately, it is not so’.

On 20 January, in an interview with a popular Polish internet portal Noizz about the situation of people of short stature in Poland, Ola Petrus reported that she herself had been humiliated many times because of her height. Responding to the journalist’s question whether someone had ever violated her personal integrity, she stated, *‘Touching me used to happen on a daily basis, not to mention pointing fingers at me. That’s why I can’t distance myself from these comments. Jokes against obese people or blondes are not followed by touching or reducing the person to the role of a toy. In our case, this is exactly what happens, and I am not talking about isolated or rare incidents’.*

WARSAW. On 9 January, **TV Republika (Republic TV,** a far-right YouTube channel) commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** spoke on his YouTube channel about social benefits in the United States and falsely insisted that Native Americans (whom he also called *‘the Indians’*) were *‘being given money for nothing’*. He stated, *‘This community, these remnants of the native inhabitants of America are stuck in reservations and showered with benefits, and with money. They are the most degenerate community I think there is in the United States’.* Ziemkiewicz continued his contemptuous description of the Native Americans as having *‘The largest number of all kinds of diseases resulting from obesity and self-neglect, the largest rates of alcoholism and drug addiction, the highest crime rates, the worst statistics in terms of relationship durability, and the educational success amongst children – simply a mess’.*

In the video, Ziemkiewicz once again used the opportunity to speak about the *‘Jew-scabs’*. Referring to one of his previous media statements, he repeated its antisemitic overtone, *‘My word «scabs» did not refer to Jews as such, it referred only to two specific politicians, because they deserved it and I still maintain they do’.* *‘Parch’*, the Polish word for a *‘scab’*, is a scornful term used to refer to Jews since at least the nineteenth century.

During his argument, Ziemkiewicz also denied the existence of the COVID-19 pandemic, calling it *‘an epidemic of hysteria’.*

OSWIECIM. On the night of 9/10 January, someone painted a swastika and **SS** symbols on the wall around the Jewish cemetery. The damage was noted by the police patrolling the area who then began appropriate investigations. On the same day, the municipal services cleaned the fence. This incident was condemned by the City Mayor Janusz Chwierut and the Jewish Museum, which issued the following statement: *‘The defacing of the wall of the Jewish cemetery in Oswiecim with the symbols of German Nazism is an act of terrible hatred and an insult to the memory of the victims of genocide, including Jewish inhabitants of Oswiecim, most of whom died in the nearby Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp’.* In a media statement, Tomasz Kuncewicz, the Director of the Jewish Museum in Oswiecim, reported that the cemetery had also been devastated in May 2020, when *‘unknown perpetrators’* painted a star of David hanging from a gallows on the museum wall.

On 12 January, the police detained three men, inhabitants of Oswiecim, suspected of vandalising the cemetery. The District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Oswiecim charged two of the men with public promotion of fascism and destruction of a monument, and the third man with damage to a monument.

WARSAW. On 11 January, **TV Republika (Republic TV)**, a far-right YouTube channel commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** used the venue of his YouTube channel to brutally attack an esteemed journalist Anne Applebaum, a Polish citizen of Jewish-American origin. One example of several slurs used was: *‘With extreme viciousness she repeated the huge lie, which the liberal left has fabricated against Trump [...] Trump supposedly won because he was in conspiracy with Putin. [...] Ms. Anne Applebaum, who lied so much’*. Ziemkiewicz additionally threatened *‘the liberal left and the same sort of people as Anne Applebaum’* that *‘someone will deport you on a wagon of manure [...] Revenge will come. I’m not threatening you. I’m informing you’*.

Ziemkiewicz also attacked the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association’s co-founder Rafal Pankowski, issuing the following, completely false accusations about him: *‘When you look around and take the example of someone like Professor Rafal Pankowski, who has lived in comfort for many, many years, because he’s been throwing himself around the world and giving lectures everywhere as a supposed authority on Polish fascism, talking about the fascist rule we have here, how threatened this country is with Nazism, nationalism, antisemitism. When you look at such a man, who has set himself up so comfortably in life, many want that; and many willing to fight Polish racism and antisemitism come flooding here for these grants, which are also poured into this country for this type of activity’*.

Under the video on YouTube, many hateful comments were posted by the viewers, expressing antisemitic opinions and inciting violence, including: *‘If one of the presidential candidates in the United States was an antisemite, I would believe they do have democracy’*, *‘Mr. Rafal, don’t speak about this jewess [sic!] because you’ll be blocked and then where will we be able to listen to you?’*; *‘One word from the chief and I would be ready to go and beat up the liberals. Not only me. These ones only speak Polish [but are not Polish]’*.

WARSAW. On 15 January, **TV Republika (Republic TV)**, a far-right TV and YouTube channel commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** spoke about the presidential elections in the USA and stated that the wave of public criticism against Donald Trump might have come from the fact that he was *‘the president of white conservative America, the one that believes in God, believes that a woman is a woman, not a person with or without a uterus, as virtually anyone can now be a woman’*. To add force to his contemptuous and racist words, Ziemkiewicz also said that Trump had stood in the way of the *‘neo-Marxist revolution’* that the victorious political camp allegedly wanted to accomplish.

WARSAW. On 18 January, the weekly right-wing magazine **‘Do Rzeczy’** (No. 3/2021) published an article by **Wojciech Cejrowski** (Polish right-wing celebrity, traveller, author of books and press publications) entitled **‘Five People’**. The author referred to the decision of social media, including Twitter and Facebook, to block accounts of the outgoing US President Donald Trump (risk of inciting violence was given as a reason). Trump has repeatedly claimed in public that the presidential election he lost in November 2020 was rigged. On 6 January, his supporters, including members of far-right organisations, stormed the Capitol, and five people were killed as a result of the riots. Referring to these events, Cejrowski wrote in his column, *‘They banned Trump and the crowd rejoices. Fools – today they came for him, tomorrow they will take you on. When **Hitler** «put the Jews in order», many thought, «at last», and then they came for them too’*. The celebrity’s statement,

which trivialises the memory of the Holocaust, was sarcastically commented on by Grzegorz Wysocki, a journalist at 'Gazeta Wyborcza' (a Polish daily independent newspaper): *'A master of subtle analogy [...]. Trump's expulsion from FB and Twitter is like the extermination of millions of Jews – just the first incoming association'*.

POZNAN. On 20 January, in the House of the Order of Salesians on Wroniecka Street Fr. **Michal Woznicki** made antisemitic and homophobic statements towards the liberal daily 'Gazeta Wyborcza' journalist Piotr Zytnicki during a mass. The priest told the congregation that the journalist is *'a person with homosexual tendencies and a member of the LGBT community [sic!]*' and concluded, *'So such people in a Jewish newspaper for Poles are occupied with matters of the church. [...] As a Jew, in the Old Testament, sodomy sins are sins that are punished with Sheol or Hades. And in the New Testament – hell. And what would happen in the case of a Pole, who is a servant to Jews and a Jewish newspaper?'* Woznicki also showed the congregation a photo of Zytnicki and claimed, *'This is that man's face. Here he is at a gay march'*. Later the priest continued to vulgarly mock the journalist's sexual orientation, *'If someone convinces me that a colon has an absorbing function and not the opposite, then I'm all for it. Please imagine such people, with such a face. How does it look from the inside out, what do they give to whom and how. Biology is clear about that. Perversion'*.

Piotr Zytnicki, in a series of articles published in 'Gazeta Wyborcza', had described a two-month long conflict in the Salesians congregation involving Woznicki. In August 2018, Woznicki was expelled from the Order and suspended. He denied the expulsion and, without approval, set up his own private chapel, where he held masses broadcast on YouTube. He was not expelled from the priesthood.

On 26 March 2021, during a mass, Fr. Michal Woznicki vulgarly attacked the journalist Piotr Zytnicki again. He spoke about him in the following ways: *'a Homo, a f*ggot from «Gazeta Wyborcza»', 'a top or a bottom in f*ggot relations?', 'Does his anus serve him so that someone goes in there and pushes? Or does he go in and push into someone else, what type is he?'*

PSZCZYNA. On 20 January, a group of around a dozen or so people disrupted an online lecture conducted by Slawomir Pastuszka, a Jewish Studies scholar and a social activist. The lecture was given on the occasion of the anniversary of the Auschwitz Death March, the route of which went through the administrative region of Pszczyna. During the webinar, one of the participants started playing a recording of a speech by **Adolf Hitler**, and a dozen others shouted insults at the guests participating in the meeting. Mr Pastuszka decided to stop the lecture. In a statement to the media he said, *'I could not allow the participants of the meeting to be insulted, I could not allow the promotion of fascism, and the profanation of the memory of the Holocaust victims and people who risked their lives to help them, including those recognised as Righteous Among the Nations'*. The following statement was also issued by the Mayor of Pszczyna Dariusz Skrobol: *'Such behaviour must not be allowed. Pszczyna should never see and never consent to the language of hatred, the attempts to insult anyone and to discriminate against anyone for religious or ideological reasons. The fascist and racist content that appeared during the lecture, offending the lecturer and the audience, is unacceptable'*.

Between 17-21 January 1945, around 56,000 male and female prisoners were led out of KL Auschwitz and its sub-camps on foot, in columns escorted by heavily armed **SS** men. Thousands of prisoners lost their lives during this evacuation, now known as the Death March.

WARSAW. On 24 January, in an interview for the conservative **Fronda** website, **Pawel Lisicki**, the Editor-in-Chief of the right-wing weekly *'Do Rzeczy'*, attacked the ecumenical teachings of the Pope John Paul II and made Islamophobic statements. He stated that Pope's words about Christians and Muslims believing in the same God *'cannot be reconciled with common sense'*. He also stated, *'If I am to say what I think about the Day of Islam [celebrated by the Catholic Church on 26 January – ed.], both this day and the Day of Judaism are manifestations of an absolutely absurd and harmful approach. It is a form of promoting religious relativism and indifference'*. Lisicki also added, *'From the Catholic point of view, the theses contained in the Qur'an and in the later Qur'anic tradition include an enormous number of errors, forgeries and untruths'*. «Celebrating» it is an internal contradiction and the only effect it can bring is an increase in chaos and the belief that all religions are equal'.

POZNAN. On the night of 24/25 January, at the Accident and Emergency department of the Specialist Mother and Child Healthcare Clinic on Krysiewicza Street one of the doctors allegedly made an offensive statement about her patients – a Black couple with a child. The event was witnessed by a woman who was also waiting for a consultation. In a media statement she reported, *'When the doctor came into the corridor, I asked if we could come in, and in response I heard that no, we could not, because the Blacks had just been there, that Negroes stink and she first had to air her office'*. The woman made an official complaint about the doctor's racist behaviour. The hospital commenced an investigation. On 9 February, the management of the facility issued a statement that *'media reports'* about the situation in the emergency department were untrue, and that *'the behaviour of the staff was correct'*.

POLAND. On 28 January, in a television programme *'Tok Szol'* broadcast on **Superstacja** TV channel the singer **Andrzej Rosiewicz**, recalling one of his concerts in London, said the following about a musician who had accompanied him on stage at that time: *'of Jewish descent, but very nice'*. Wojciech Jagielski, the host of the program, did not react to these words. Rosiewicz worked for **Radio Maryja** and **Telewizja Trwam** (chauvinist-Catholic media outlets), for which he created political propaganda songs. He also supported **Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc (Law and Justice** governing party) before the elections to the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament) in 2005 and 2007.

WARSAW. On 28 January, information appeared on social media that *'unknown perpetrators'* had posted stickers in public spaces containing death threats against participants in street protests organised to defend the rights of women and sexual minorities. The stickers contained a phrase *'F*ck you, you wh*res'*, a crossed-out rainbow flag (symbol of the LGBT community) and a crossed-out logo of the Women's Strike (a major gender-equality and women's rights movement in Poland).

FEBRUARY 2021

WARSAW. At the beginning of February, the walls of houses on Wolominska and Radzyminska Streets were covered in racist signs and symbols by *'unknown perpetrators'*. The graffiti was aimed at Black rappers from the collective GM2L, which includes artists of different ethnic background (the group's leader Malik Montana has Afghan roots and had lived in Germany until he was fifteen). Some of these slogans said: *'White Warsaw f*cks GM2L'*, *'F*ck you, Black f*cks'*, *'White Power'*, *'Two f*ggots'*, as well as threats such as: *'We will f*ck you up Black f*cks'*, and symbols of the Celtic cross (which is supposed to symbolise white supremacy). These signs appeared in Praga district, in places where the musicians were shooting their music video for the song 'Wuwua', where (as well as in other songs) they mentioned racism and hate speech they have experienced themselves. Local activists from the Porozumienie dla Pragi Association reported the signs to the Office for Real Estate Management in the Praga-Polnoc district, but they later mentioned on social media that their request for an intervention remained unanswered.

BELCHATOW. The February issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')*, ran an article about the hooligans of **Jagiellonia Bialystok**, with images taken at matches. Several images depicted banners with Nazi symbols. Two flags depicted the Totenkopf – a symbol of characteristic skull used by the **SS** in World War II, and the number 88, which stands for *'Heil Hitler'*, as H is the 8th letter in the alphabet. Moreover, one of the other banners replaced a letter S with the sig rune (used before 1945 by **Deutsches Jungvolk**, a part of **Hitlerjugend**; double sig rune was used by the SS).

OPATOW. On 3 February, city's Mayor **Grzegorz Gajewski** published a photo of Orthodox Jews on his Facebook profile alongside antisemitic comments, such as: *'I'm not a prejudiced antisemite, but as a person who likes to seek the truth, I am wondering why it is that wherever they went they were so disliked...'* When one person commented, *'Grzegorz, I don't know if it's appropriate for the Mayor to forward such antisemitic lies. Let's not forget that the pre-war Apt (Opatow) was an open city of many cultures and was proud of its openness'*, Gajewski responded, *'Oh it is appropriate. Don't you worry, this is not a reason for dismissing me'*. The Mayor 'liked' a comment from a different person saying, *'The Pogrom in Kielce [violent massacre of Jews in the southeastern Polish town of Kielce on 4 July 1946. During this incident, a mob of Polish soldiers, police officers, and civilians murdered at least 42 Jews and injured over 40 in the worst outburst of anti-Jewish violence in postwar Poland – ed.] was a Communist plot'*. Gajewski also added, *'the Department of security is responsible for the Pogrom in Kielce, not its residents. [...] I will explain to you that the Department of Security was at that time infiltrated by Jews who came to Poland on Soviet tanks straight from Moscow'*. Later in the discussion the Mayor of Opatow claimed, *'It just has to be noted that the Polish – Jewish relations lack a balance. That's the issue. Constant claims and demands on their part, and a servile position and fear on our part in order not to look antisemitic'*.

WARSAW. On 3 February, on the **NPTV** channel on YouTube the far-right activist and former actor **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) called for murder of Bill Gates, repeating the conspiracy that Gates plans to *'depopulate humanity'* by supporting vaccination against COVID-19.

Olszanski delivered a vulgar tirade, repeating, *'Kill Bill Gates, whoever is around him – kill him. He's f*cking killing us. The submissives will fall. That's right, I'm calling for that f*cking thing – kill Bill Gates! F*cking kill him! Do you have f*cking balls, you f*cking... American b*tches?! F**king pricks! Descendants of thugs and criminals! [...] Kill Bill Gates! We cannot do it, and God is our witness in heaven that we would do it. [...] We would do it with an ice axe like f*cking Stalin f*cked up... Trotsky! With an ice axe, right in the middle of the head! How many more people are to be slaughtered?! How many more people have to die for his f*cking balance sheet ?!'*

An excerpt from Olszanski's speech was shared by other YouTube users, including on 7 February on the YouTube channel by a user with the pseudonym **Maxx**, and on 9 February on the website **Wykop.pl** by a user with the pseudonym **White**.

WARSAW. On 4 February, on **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, former Catholic priest and far-right activist **Jacek Miedlar** made antisemitic attacks against historians who study the Holocaust and Polish-Jewish relations by saying, *'Jewish institutions try by any means necessary to block the truth. In my latest book «Poland in the Shadow of Jewry» I clearly point out that this adoption and unapologetic production of lies is almost a genetic rule of Jewish communities'*. Later in the discussion hosted by **Krzysztof Lech Luksza**, Miedlar denied the official number of Jews murdered in the Holocaust: *'Six million Jews murdered is an often-quoted number – that six million died and that's it. [...] while I want to point out how they often get lost in their lies. If we look on the internet, in one Jewish encyclopaedia on the topic of documenting the number of Holocaust and Nazi harassment victims, we can find that there is no single war-time document created by the Nazis that would feature a precise number of those murdered during the Holocaust or the World War II. [...] So, here we can speak of a blatant, horrible lie, twisting the facts without appropriate documentation. [...] The Holocaust Industry is winning and it's built on a lie, like in the case of Jedwabne [massacre of Jewish inhabitants of Jedwabne perpetrated by the Polish population of the town in presence of German occupying forces in 1941 – ed.] or the Pogrom in Wizna [town in the Lomza region, a place of antisemitic riots in 1941, with the participation of part of the Polish population]'*. Miedlar continued with antisemitic comments when answering questions from the audience, *'I'm quoting the words that I identify with completely: «I hate what Jews are doing with us and in particular with what is relevant to all Christians and everything to do with Christianity. I hate their lies, cunningness, and the appalling lack of honour»'. The majority [of Jews] identifies with such anti-values and represents them'*.

Furthermore, during the broadcast, the host Krzysztof Lech Luksza insulted the President of the United States, calling Joe Biden *'a puppet of forces which want to destroy values'*. Miedlar connected these words to the Vice-President Kamala Harris, whom he also insulted (Harris is of Indian and Jamaican heritage), and George Floyd (a Black American who was killed on 25 May 2020 by a policeman in Minneapolis, Minnesota): *'There is no doubt that Joe Biden is a puppet of the n*gger Mrs Vice President [...] [for whom] the majority wouldn't vote. [...] And in reality, she and the entire neo-Marxist, radical leftist wing that has been supported by the Democrats in recent months, I mean Black Lives Matter or Antifa, were supported by the Democrats and they kissed black a*s'es only because he was killed, or maybe not even killed, the Black, Afro-American porn star, rapist and a wife-beater'*.

WARSAW. On 4 February in an interview broadcast on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** YouTube channel **Jaroslav Litwin**, a member of the Regional Chamber of Legal Counsels in Wrocław, made antisemitic remarks. He said, *‘What was the premise of the Jewish economic expansionism in the 2nd Republic of Poland? It was based on [the Jews’] insolence and the passiveness of the Polish society’*. He added that nowadays, *‘the situation is similar, these insolent activities [of the Jews] are not met with appropriate resistance’*. He also claimed that *‘the Jews have been spitting in our faces for a long time now with virtually no reaction from Polish diplomatic or security services’*.

POLAND. On 9 February, on Twitter, comments antisemitic in nature and containing threats of violence appeared under a post of the Member of Parliament Anna Maria Zukowska, in which she had criticised the President, Andrzej Duda, for the commemoration of Major **Zygmunt Szendzielarz** aka **‘Lupaszką’** who had been accused of war crimes in the Vilnius region in mid-1944. Here are some of these comments: *‘Listen, Jewess. He only fired at anti-Polish motherf*ckers of your bandit tribe, dirty Jews who had gone over to the side of the Polish occupier, the Soviets. He must have neglected the job a bit as reptiles like you have hatched in the following b*stard litter. That was his mistake!’* *‘The laments of a Jewess. Oh dear’*, *‘Off to Israel, Jewish parasites!!! Too few Jewish wh*res from the Department of Security were killed because the plague had spread to Poland’*, *‘shameless scab’*, and *‘back to Israel’*.

KRAKOW. On 11 February, an owner and an employee of a kebab shop used racial slurs and threats towards two customers, an Egyptian citizen and his Polish partner. The woman reported, *‘[The employee – ed.] from the very beginning was hostile towards us: he did not answer our «Good morning», he had a sinister gaze and he did not want to answer our questions about the menu. We tried to place an order, but he was not eager to serve us’*. Due to the man’s behavior, the woman turned to the owner of the establishment, who insulted her by saying, *‘You are f*cked up that you came with a P*ki’*, *‘If you were normal, you would be with a Pole’*, *‘I don’t tolerate any LGBT or Hindus’*, *‘I don’t tolerate P*kis’* and *‘Get the f*ck out of my place’*. The employee refused to serve the Egyptian man and threatened to *‘cut him into pieces if he ever comes here again’* and that he would kill him. The other customers did not react to this situation. The mistreated couple reported that they tried to call the police, but the police refused to send a patrol. The couple reported the incident at the police station, but they told the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association that as of May 2021 they had not received any further information about the case.

KATOWICE. On the night of 11/12 February on Korfanty Avenue, *‘unknown perpetrators’* destroyed the office façade of a Koalicja Obywatelska (Civic Coalition, a major coalition of liberal parties, currently in opposition to the government) Member of Parliament Monika Rosa in a homophobic attack. On the window where a rainbow flag was displayed (a symbol of the LGBT community), they wrote: *‘F*ggots raus!’* On the same day, 12 February, a man called Rosa’s office and threatened the MP with death.

On 9 April, Monika Rosa reported that the police had discontinued the investigation into the homophobic attack on her office due to their inability to identify the perpetrators.

KOLUSZKI. On 14 February, two men painted building walls, garages and underpasses with swastikas and the number 1488, which is a combination of two numerical symbols used by neo-Nazis. The number 14 references the so-called 'fourteen words', the neo-Nazi slogan: *'We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children'*, formulated by **David Lane**, the leader of racist terrorists from American group **The Order**. The inspiration for this text was a fragment from **Adolf Hitler's 'Mein Kampf'**. The number 88 means 'Heil Hitler' (as the letter H is eighth in the alphabet).

On 16 February, the same men placed Nazi symbols and death threats on a residential building where Patryk Kurc lives – a co-organiser of the Women's Strike protests (a major gender-equality and women's rights movement in Poland) and a volunteer assistant of the Polska 2050 Member of Parliament Hanna Gill-Piatek. The façade next to his window was painted with the slogans: *'Kurc B*tch 1488'* and *'Kurc – we will f*ck you up'*.

In a media statement, Kurc reported that at the beginning of February two masked attackers, football hooligans of **Widzew Lodz**, beat up another activist connected to the Women's Strike organisation in Koluszki. *'They called him a child-murderer and a leftist'*, Kurc reported. On 22 February 2021, police arrested two men in relation to the incident. The men were charged with public promotion of fascism and destruction of property, and one of them was additionally charged with assault.

WARSAW. On 17 February, many antisemitic comments appeared under an article posted on the popular **Wirtualna Polska** internet platform about the death of a long-time worker of the Jewish Historical Institute Jan Jagielski. Some examples include: *'Another f*cking Jew down, keep it up'*, *'Jewish liars appropriating Polish surnames'*, *'I understand that the funeral will be held in Auschwitz'*, *'I'm not sorry for the Jewish freeloaders'*, *'They could take their cemeteries, synagogues and other souvenirs and leave this country and nation once and for all, so that we don't have to listen to their allegations and endless claims to everything. I hope they disappear from the surface of the Earth like Atlantis and there will be peace in the world'*, *'There is no place on our Earth for the enemies of Poland and the Polish nation. Those who come here to plant a seed of animosity and make a centre for anti-Polish diversion will bring doom on themselves. A live foot will not escape Polish swords. Amen'*, *'Where did they all come from? Go back to Israel instead of poisoning the air in Poland'*. Despite reporting these antisemitic comments to the website administrators on the WP platform, they were not deleted.

Jan Jagielski was a social activist committed to commemorating places and events connected to the history and culture of Polish Jews. He was an author of books on material signs of the historical presence of Jews on Polish land. He died on 16 February 2021, aged 84.

WARSAW. On 17 February, in the evening, a gay couple was attacked near the Wierzbno metro station. The assailant shouted, *'Stop holding hands, children are watching'* at the men and stabbed one of them in the back with a knife. The police and an ambulance were called to the scene. The injured man was taken to hospital. The Warsaw 2nd District Police Headquarters launched an investigation into the incident as a crime of causing immediate danger of loss of life or serious damage to health. The police were searching for the attacker.

Mr **Witold Waszczykowski**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and **Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc (Law and Justice)** governing party) Member of the European Parliament made a comment trivialising this event. He compared the homophobic attack to a situation involving football hooligans, *'If you are in Lodz and a boy with a Widzew FC scarf goes [from there] to Polesie, which is a stronghold of LKS FC supporters, he may likewise get hurt'*. The statement was made on Radio Zet [major privately-owned station] on 17 February. His words were met with media criticism and accusations that the politician was attempting to justify aggression.

LUBLIN. On 18 February, a clerk from the Citizens' and Foreigners' Affairs Department of the Lubelskie Voivodeship acted aggressively towards a nursing student from Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwean woman tried to communicate in English, but the clerk shouted that *'she is in a Polish office and should not expect to speak English here'*. When the student gave her temporary residence permit documents, completed in Polish, the clerk, upon finding a mistake, threw the papers in her face. The student reported, *'She didn't tell me where I made a mistake. I started crying because I knew that if I filled something in wrong, my application for the temporary residence permit would be rejected. I picked up the documents and went to a different clerk, who helped me fill out the forms correctly'*. The student informed the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, with whom she began cooperating in March 2021.

POZNAN. On 20 February, a march denying the COVID-19 epidemic organised by the **Stop NOP Association** happened in the city. Stop NOP advocates the abolition of compulsory vaccinations for children against infectious diseases. Its leader is **Justyna Socha**, volunteer assistant to the **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) Member of Parliament **Grzegorz Braun**, who is known for disseminating antisemitic conspiracy theories. In the Old Market Square, participants of the march chanted insults at Polsat and TVN journalists (two biggest privately owned TV stations in Poland), including: *'Leftist wh*res'* and *'Pray to Jesus, not to Solorz the Jew'* (Zygmunt Solorz-Zak is the majority shareholder of Polsat TV). The march was also attended by **Ivan Komarenko**, a singer and a celebrity, Poland's representative in the 2005 Eurovision Song Contest. Komarenko is an active supporter of the anti-vaccine and COVID-19 denial movement. In Poznan, he compared the opponents of the epidemic restrictions to the defenders of Poland against the German army in 1939. The participants of the march did not wear protective masks and called to ignore the regulations related to the epidemic. The police did not intervene.

GDANSK. On 23 February, on Wajdelota Street a city resident committed acts of aggression against the owners of the vegan House of Seitan restaurant. The man shouted homophobic insults towards them after the basement of the premises had been flooded due to a plumbing problem. The man also caused damage to the property. The owners of the restaurant reported, *'Instead of telling us that there was water coming from under our door, the neighbour smashed the door and then came in to call us vulgar names such as «LGBT c*nts», «d*kes» and «wh*res» who ruin lives of normal people. He shouted that we were displaying rainbow umbrellas in the windows and thinking about how to carry out abortions instead of checking the cellar'*.

The restaurant was LGBT-friendly, displaying a rainbow sticker that read: *'Everyone Welcome'* on the door and posters supporting the Women's Strike (a major gender-equality and women's rights movement in Poland) in the window.

In a media statement, the restaurant owners reported other acts of aggression committed by local residents: *'We often hear accusations by our neighbours that we do not let normal people live. There have been incidents such as locking our employee in the basement, jamming the hand of another in the door, and a female neighbour simply running into the premises and shouting that she will destroy us'*.

WROCLAW. On 25 February, a city resident reported on social media that slogans and threats motivated by ideological hatred had been written on a bus shelter on Krakowska Street next to the shopping centre. *'Unknown perpetrators'* wrote, *'Biedron to the gas [chambers – translator's note]'*, and placed a sticker saying, *'Death penalty for the snitches on Poland: Biedron, Lempart, Skurek [misspelt surname Spurek – ed.], PO-KO [acronyms of Platforma Obywatelska and Koalicja Obywatelska, major opposition party and coalition – translator's note], The Left'*. The list of people targeted includes those known for their public activities in favour of minorities' and women's rights. Robert Biedron is a Wiosna (Spring party) Member of the European Parliament and the founder of the Campaign Against Homophobia; Marta Lempart is the initiator and leader of the Women's Strike (a major gender-equality and women's rights movement in Poland), and Sylwia Spurek is the former deputy of the Ombudsman and a former Wiosna Member of the European Parliament (now independent MEP). The offensive graffiti was later removed by the Wroclaw Municipal Transport Company.

MARCH 2021

WARSAW. At the beginning of March, *'unknown perpetrators'* attached pieces of paper next to entrances to blocks of flats in the Muranow district (Mila and Smocza Streets were among those affected), which read *'Away with Jews and LGBT'*. In February, the same prints (with a font imitating handwriting) were thrown into letterboxes on Okopowa Street.

WROCLAW. Early in March, *'unknown perpetrators'* destroyed a mural with the slogan *'Everyone is different but all are equal'* on a building on Gajowicka Street. The words were painted over and replaced with the slogan *'White power'* and the Celtic cross (an international racism symbol). The same mural promoting tolerance was also destroyed in September 2020.

BELCHATOW. The March issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')*, ran an article about the hooligans of **Cracovia Krakow**. One of the images used in the article depicted a flag with a Celtic cross (which is supposed to symbolise white supremacy). It was displayed by the hooligans of Cracovia.

OSTROW WLKP. During the night of 3/4 March, in Powstancow Wielkopolskich Alley *'unknown perpetrators'* destroyed a plaque commemorating Pawel Adamowicz, the Mayor of Gdansk, murdered in January 2019. They smashed the protective glass and painted over the plaque the Celtic

cross, a symbol of the so-called 'white power', used by neo-fascist and racist movements. Next to the plaque they also posted a note with a message addressed to the Mayor of Ostrow Beata Klimek. The note said, *'Where is the monument to the Accursed Soldiers?'* [the so-called 'Accursed Soldiers' is a name given to a group of anti-communist guerrilla which operated in Poland after 1945 – translator's note]. In a press statement, the Mayor referred to this incident, *'I will not accept it. Vulgar and hateful words have been addressed to me. Instead of talking to each other and respecting the right to different opinions, we introduce into public life such fascist content, full of hate speech, and this is forbidden in Poland'*.

WARSAW. On 5 March, on **Polish Radio 24** [state-owned news station] Prof. **Piotr Grochmalski** from the Warsaw Academy of Martial Arts and the host **Ryszard Gromadzki** attacked Pope Francis in the context of his pilgrimage to Iraq and made extremely negative comments about Islam. Grochmalski stated, *'Even if one knows the Qur'an vaguely, one knows perfectly well that it is a militant religion. There is a very strongly accentuated element of fighting, also of destroying and killing the infidels'*. On the other hand, Gromadzki asked his interlocutor the following xenophobic question: *'Against this reality [in Iraq – ed.], isn't Pope Francis's call to brotherhood [...] and aren't all these gestures towards Muslims a manifestation of some utopian hope? Reality responds very brutally to this'*. In response, Grochmalski once again recalled the distorted theme of the conflict between Christians and Muslims, *'Appealing to Christian ethics, to this attitude of turning the other cheek to the enemy [...] this is a message that causes a kind of frustration among the Islamic community'*.

WARSAW. On 5 March, on Radio Zet (major privately-owned station), **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party) Member of Parliament **Krzysztof Bosak** in a conversation about Dr. **Tomasz Greniuch** (former activist of **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny**, the **National-Radical Camp**, extreme-right political organisation) made statements tinged with antisemitism. He first expressed regrets that Greniuch had lost his position as acting Director of the Wroclaw office of the IPN (Institute of National Remembrance), which happened as a result of the media publicising his disgraceful, extreme nationalist activity. Bosak then added, *'If IPN is to represent our country successfully on the international forum, including the historical debates, then this means frequent conflicts with Jewish circles hostile towards Poland'*.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 6 March, the far-right **Narodowa Czestochowa** (**National Czestochowa**) group organised a march in the city. The participants of this rally chanted racist slogans and ideologically motivated threats: *'White Europe'*, *'There'll be a clout for the leftist snout'*, *'With a sickle, with a hammer, beat the leftist mob'*, *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'*. They also expressed their support for **Janusz Walus**, a Polish immigrant sentenced to life imprisonment for the racist murder committed in 1993 in South Africa [on parole since December 2022 – translator's note]. The participants of the demonstration shouted, *'Janusz Walus – our role model'*, and displayed a banner containing the words: *'Freedom for Walus'* and the Celtic cross, a symbol of the so-called 'white power'. The march was observed by a representative of the Czestochowa City Hall, but the assembly was not dissolved.

WARSAW. On 6 March, at the Warsaw Central Railway Station two security guards behaved aggressively and with contempt towards a homeless man. He was leaving the building when they suddenly knocked him to the ground and then dragged him across the floor. One of the passengers, who spoke with an East Slavic accent, protested against the brutal intervention. In response, the security guards shouted xenophobic insults and threats towards him. One of them exclaimed, *'Get lost or I'll f*cking remove you. Get lost, you Ukrainian toe-rag!'* When the passenger replied that he was a Polish citizen, he heard from the security guard: *'You and Poland, get lost!'* In fact, the man being offended was from Belarus and had been living in Warsaw for three years.

The rail company Polskie Koleje Państwowe (PKP) SA was notified of the incidents involving the station's security guards. Its spokesman informed the media that both men had now been banned from providing any services to PKP.

A statement in this matter was also issued by their employer, the security company DGP Security Partner: *'The management board condemns all signs of racist or xenophobic behaviour among the company's employees. The attitude and words spoken by our employees during the incident were unacceptable and should not have occurred'*. Both men were dismissed from their jobs.

ZLOTORYJA. On 7 March, Councillor of the Zlotoryja district **Lech Olszanicki** from **Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice)** governing party) made a long xenophobic post on Facebook about a 13-year-old boy from Ukraine. In doing it, he publicly mentioned the name of the child, the initial of his surname, the number of the class he attended, and his nationality (the teacher of the boy at a primary school in Swierzawa is the Councillor's wife). Olszanicki wrote, *'I don't know why this Ukrainian came to Poland. Does [here the child's name and initial of his surname were mentioned – ed.] know the history of the Banderites [term used to describe members of the wartime Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists led by Stepan Bandera, in practice a frequent ethnic slur against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator's note] murdering my countrymen? Does he know why Ukraine lost Crimea and part of its territory?'* The Councillor went on to make racist statements and wrote that the boy *'cultivates the worst, primitive genes brought from his country'*. He also added aggressively, *'This Ukrainian does not deserve to live among us because of his conduct'*. The District Public Prosecutor's Office in Legnica initiated proceedings related to public insult of a minor on account of his nationality.

On 6 November 2020, a recording of an online lesson conducted by the wife of the Councillor from Zlotoryja was published on YouTube, during which she spoke insultingly about the same student from Ukraine. During the lesson, she said to the children, *'This idiot spoke up again, your friend [name redacted – ed.], this little sh*t allows himself too much. There is no such crap in any other class, but now you have one idiot in your class'*. The school board was notified about the case, but whether the teacher faced any consequences as a result of her behaviour was not made public.

KRAKOW. On 8 March, *'unknown perpetrators'* raised a false alarm at Fundacja w Stronie Dialogu (Foundation Towards Dialogue), which acts for the benefit of the Roma community. A message about a bomb in the headquarters of the foundation read as follows: *'Do you support the Women's Strike [a major gender-equality and women's rights movement in Poland – translator's note]? Now it's time to pay for it. We have planted a bomb in your office. You didn't hear. We're going to blow it*

up. For far too long have we endured the whims of the lefties, their call to destroy our traditional values. [...] Abortion means murder! Life for life! Blood for blood!' The police were informed about the incident.

On 12 March, the Foundation posted a message on social media about further threats received by them. Another message stated, *'We will continue to terrorise your office until you withdraw your support for abortion, you b*stards. [...] One day, when you're least expecting it, we'll just detonate a bomb'*.

WARSAW. On 11 March, an article with antisemitic content was published in the free local magazine *'Passa. Tygodnik Sasiadow'* (*'Passa, the Neighbourhood Weekly'*), distributed in the southern districts of Warsaw (Ursynow, Mokotow, Wilanow) and neighbouring suburbs. The text prepared by **Tadeusz Porebski** started with the following statement: *'For several decades Poland has been attacked by Jewish organisations all around the world for alleged antisemitism, and Poles are being accused of significant participation in the Holocaust'*. Further in the article, the conspiracy theory was repeated and expanded to include other threads: *'So, why are we so furiously attacked by Jewish organisations? Is it about the property lost as a result of the Holocaust?'* and: *'The hatred of Jews towards Poland might therefore have strictly religious, and not material reasons. [...] The fierceness with which Poles – a nation that absolutely has not participated in the Holocaust – are attacked by the Jewish circles linked to the rabbinate gives much food for thought'*.

POZNAN. On 14 March, on the tram no. 5, going towards Unii Lubelskiej Street, on the section between the stops Kornicka and Polanka, one of the passengers made threats and racist insults towards a Guatemalan man travelling with his wife and child. The police were notified of the attack and the suspect was arrested. He was charged with an offence under Article 119 § 2 of the Polish Penal Code (*'Whoever uses violence or an unlawful threat against a group of people or a particular person because of their national, ethnic, racial, political, religious affiliation, or because of their lack of religion, is subject to the penalty of deprivation of liberty for a term of between 3 months and 5 years'*). The results of the proceedings have not been made public.

LODZ. In the first half of March in Retkinia, Chojny residential district, near the Archcathedral Basilica and the tram station (so-called 'Unicorn Stable'), *'unknown perpetrators'* hung posters with false and defamatory statements about the LGBT community. They contained the following: *'Homosexuals, who comprise 1% of the society, are responsible for over half of the cases of paedophilia. Protect your children! Fight the LGBT ideology!'* The posters displayed a drawing of a crying boy and a rainbow-coloured hand covering his mouth.

KLECZA DOLNA. In mid-March, information about an assortment of goods perpetuating antisemitic stereotypes offered by the online shop of **Lyson Beekeeping** appeared on social media. The shop sold wax candles depicting a religious Jew with a one grosz coin in his hand. Customers were offered a choice of two versions named depending on the size of the candle 'Little Jew' and 'Big Jew'. The description of these products included the following information: *'Hand-made beeswax candle. The figure of a Jew is believed to bring financial success. Large and elegant, gives a pleasant warm light'*.

The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association criticised the sale of such items and demanded that the offer be withdrawn by the online store. Writing for the American magazine *'The Algemeiner'*, Prof. Rafal Pankowski stressed, *'The idea of burning a stereotypical Jew in a country where German Nazis burned millions of Holocaust victims is particularly disturbing. Looking at these candles, one might speak of commercialisation of dehumanisation'*.

Responding to international media criticism, the Lyson Beekeeping company removed candles representing a Jew from its online offer.

GDANSK. On 17 March, in Reagan Park a gay sports group Homokomando Trojmiasto was attacked by around thirty men during a training session. The attackers shouted *'F*cking f*gs'* at the victims. They knocked the group's coach down to the ground and beat another participant. As a result, both men were hospitalised. One of them had lost a tooth and suffered a spinal injury.

On 24 March, open-air training sessions were organised in several cities as a display of solidarity with the attacked persons from the Homokomando group. They took place, among others, in **WROCLAW**, in Staromiejski Park. This session was interrupted by twelve attackers who shouted threats and slogans at the exercising group: *'No pedalling'* (abusive slang for *'no gay sex'*) and *'Wroclaw free from f*ggots'*. Later in the evening, **Mlodziez Wszepolska (All-Polish Youth**, far-right nationalist organisation) published a photo and a post on its Facebook page, which confirmed that it was their representatives who had attacked the people training in the park. **Marcin Osowski**, a board member of the Lower Silesian Mlodziez Wszepolska and a National Security course student at the University of Wroclaw, also boasted about the attack, posting a photo on Twitter. Following the incident, the University issued a statement condemning *'all forms of discrimination and incitement to violence'*. However, the results of the disciplinary proceedings in this case have not been made public.

WARSAW. On the night of 18/19 March, on Wilcza Street someone threw a brick through the window of Kuchnia Konflikту (Conflict Kitchen) restaurant, which is run by refugees from different countries. This is how the restaurant owners commented on the attack on social media: *'We regularly encounter situations where someone rips off or paints over stickers saying «refugees welcome», but this is a first'*. Kuchnia Konflikту is a place known for being open to other cultures. It was established in 2018 and the refugees employed there serve dishes inspired by the countries where they come from. On 9 March, the police reported that a man was arrested on suspicion of breaking the window. The result of the police inquiry in this case has not been revealed to the public.

WALBRZYCH. On 19 March, one of the city's residents painted racist and fascist statements and symbols on the building of High School No. 1 on Paderewski Street. The wall was covered in signs saying, *'white power'* (a slogan used by white supremacists), the number '88' (a coded Nazi salute meaning **'Heil Hitler'** as H is the eighth letter of the alphabet) and the **SS** symbol. On 7 April, the police arrested Walbrzych resident **Karol T.** who was charged with public incitement of fascism and destruction of property. *'The man admitted he liked Hitler and that his actions were aimed at informing covert Nazis that there is a Nazi in Walbrzych'*, said Marcin Witkowski, head of the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Walbrzych, in his media statement.

WROCLAW. On the night of 19 March, on Joannitow Street ‘*unknown perpetrators*’ placed a sign on one of the residential buildings saying, ‘*Stop LGBT*’. They also painted the Celtic cross (a symbol of white supremacy) on a mailbox accompanied with the words ‘*We know*’. This act of vandalism was a homophobic threat against the building’s residents.

WARSAW. On 20 March, people who deny the COVID-19 epidemic marched through the streets of the capital city. The march was organised by the **Stop NOP Association** (aimed at the abolition of mandatory vaccinations for children against infectious diseases). The association’s leader is **Justyna Socha**, a volunteer assistant to the **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) Member of Parliament **Grzegorz Braun** who is known for making antisemitic statements. The participants chanted, ‘*Down with the Jewish occupation!*’ They also attacked police officers. Warsaw Metropolitan Police reported, ‘*one female police officer was kicked by an aggressor. Another police officer was hit in the head with a rock. Both officers were taken to hospital*’. The police used stun grenades and tear gas.

WROCLAW. On 21 March, Jak Malowana Foundation reported on its Facebook page that ‘*unknown perpetrators*’ had devastated the organisation’s offices on Rejtan Street. They broke the window and painted ‘*Death to the enemies of the motherland*’ slogan (in contemporary context it is used by extreme nationalists to call for ideologically motivated violence) and the Celtic cross (a racist symbol) on the façade of the building. Jak Malowana Foundation organises activities to help keep older citizens active, promotes artwork created by people with disabilities, and works to prevent social marginalisation.

MYSLOWICE. On 23 March, the police were informed that at the Evangelical cemetery on Oswiecimska Street ‘*unknown perpetrators*’ had destroyed thirty crosses marking a mass grave of victims killed at the Rosengarten Nazi labour camp. On the premises of the cemetery at least 800 people are buried in two mass graves. Fr. Dr. Adam Malina of the Lutheran Parish in Myslowice also reported other acts of destruction that had taken place at the cemetery, ‘*Before there were a couple of crosses toppled over in a span of a few years. It had never been done on such a (large) scale before*’. Between 1945-1946, a communist labour camp was located on the premises of Rosengarten, where at least 2,000 prisoners died.

POLAND. On 24 March, in a letter to the editors a ‘*Gazeta Wyborcza*’ (centre-left daily) reader reported an act of discrimination from state officials towards migrants from Ukraine and Nepal. This is how she described the events that she witnessed: ‘*In a big provincial city, in one of the main government offices, a person from Ukraine heard that they should either speak Polish, have a sworn translator, or not show up at all [sic!]. In a smaller city, a female official in the Civil Registry rudely demanded that the person from Nepal «not talk to her in Polish like a child!» The Nepalese national was trying hard to register his newborn Polish baby there*’. In reporting these events the woman added, ‘*both of the people, from Ukraine and Nepal, spoke English enough to easily resolve their administrative issues. They also tried to speak Polish*’. In both instances officials denied them service. They only served the migrants when people waiting in line openly challenged their discriminatory behaviour.

TORUN. On 25 March, on Szeroka Street in front of a kebab restaurant two persons living in the city attacked a group of four: citizens of Egypt, Turkey, Turkmenistan, as well as a Polish woman. They called them foul names, threatened to beat them up, one of the aggressors even committed physical violence – he started to shove the victims. The perpetrators turned out to be 37-year-old **Patryk W.** and 31-year-old **Dawid K.** The case was taken up by the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Torun Centre-West. In June 2022, the Regional Court in Torun found both men guilty of an attack based on national hostility by verbal abuse and threatening behaviour, while Patryk W. was additionally found guilty of violation of bodily integrity. The Court sentenced him to one year and four months of community service (at 30 hours per month). Dawid K., who was not a first-time offender, was sentenced to 10 months of community service.

POLAND. On 27 March, the Press Office of the Polish Bishops' Conference published Passover greetings to the Jewish community on Twitter. In response to the tweet, a lot of antisemitic comments appeared and were left undeleted by the administrators of the profile. They included: *'Bishops – you can now f*ck off to synagogues'*, *'Can Bishops kindly share the Good News to all nations instead of affirming Jews in their wrong beliefs?'* *'Payot-bishops'*, *'Your job Judases is to convert everyone to Christianity – especially Jews. And what are you doing? You're up their a*s'es every day. Shame on you...'* *'You're calling yourself bishops, you 7ewish scum'*, *'You are gravediggers of the Catholic Church. Freemasonry, Judeo-communism [aka Judeo-Bolshevism, antisemitic stereotype of Jews as communist traitors – translator's note]. Everybody out! We don't want such instigators!'* *'How many Bishops are Jews? Keep at it, Jewish lackeys, and churches will be empty'*, *'What a bunch of Jewish footrests!!!'*

SOSNOWIEC. On 27 March after the second division match Zaglebie Sosnowiec – Stomil Olsztyn, player of the local team, **Patryk Malecki**, used homophobic slurs against Lukasz Matusiak, coach assistant. In response to Matusiak's critical remarks about his attitude during the game, Malecki shouted insults like *'Faggot'*. Then he tried to beat him up. The Board of Zaglebie said in their press release due to the assault and the use of prosecutable threats, Malecki was suspended as a player. On 13 May, the Disciplinary Committee of the Polish Football Association, the player was disqualified for two months and fined with PLN 10 000 (some EUR 2 000).

Patryk Malecki was already reported in 2011 in the *'Brown Book'* carried out by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association. Back then, as a player for Wisla Krakow, on 15 May he used racist slurs against Saidim Ntibaznokiza from Burundi, a player for Cracovia Krakow.

WRZESNIA. On 27 March during the fifth division match Victoria Wrzesnia – Warta Miedzychod, a reporter of Radio Wrzesnia, **Andrzej Gorczyński**, shouted a racist slur towards a black player of the visiting team, Jędrzej Drame. At the end of the match, the reporter shouted: *'That black f*cking ape'*. The reporter was removed from the stadium. Moreover, the Management Board of Victoria Wrzesnia banned him from league matches. A statement was also offered by the owner of Radio Wrzesnia: *'We want nothing to do with that slur and we will undertake proper measures to remedy this situation. [...] our employer was given an official reprimand, which was placed in his personnel files, with a possibility of disciplinary dismissal. Furthermore, we expect him to issue official*

apologies on his FB page and FB page of Victoria Wrzesnia and Warta Miedzichod, and to pay PLN 500 to «NEVER AGAIN», an association fighting racism and bigotry’.

Jedrzej Drame was born in Poland, his father, Sekou Drame from Guinea, was a player for Lech Poznan.

CZESTOCHOWA. On the night of 28/29 March, ‘unknown perpetrators’ devastated a monument commemorating Jews deported to Treblinka extermination camp in 1942. They painted a swastika, the **SS** symbol, and the number 1488, which is a combination of two numerical symbols used by neo-Nazis. The number 14 refers to the so-called ‘fourteen words’, which form the neo-Nazi slogan: ‘We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children’. It was formulated by **David Lane**, the leader of racist terrorists from the American group **The Order**. The inspiration for this text was a fragment from **Adolf Hitler’s ‘Mein Kampf’**. The number 88 means ‘Heil Hitler’, as H is the eighth letter of the alphabet. Names of known Holocaust deniers **Jürgen Graf** and **Ursula Haverbeck** were also painted on the monument. Graf was sentenced to prison by a Swiss court in 1998 for promoting Holocaust denial and inciting racial hatred. Haverbeck was sentenced a few times by German courts and served jail sentences for denying the Holocaust.

The police in Czestochowa, under the supervision of the Public Prosecutor’s Office, investigated the case as desecration of a monument, destruction of property, as well as promotion of fascism and incitement to hatred based on nationality. In October 2021, the investigation was discontinued due to inability to identify the perpetrators.

POLAND. On 29 March and the following days, many racist comments were published online in relation to the upcoming match of the group try-outs to the World Cup, England – Poland (31 March). The comments concerned the public debate whether the Polish players should follow the English ones and take a knee to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter action. Some Twitter comments included: ‘If our boys kneel before some N*gros, they may not come back to Poland’, ‘It’s OK to kneel before God, not to commemorate some junkie from the US’, ‘Polish soldiers do not kneel’, ‘I hope they don’t take a knee. Don’t even dare! If some loser wants to do that, be my guest, but not in Poland. I hope the team understands that!’, ‘A Pole kneels ONLY BEFORE GOD!!!! Don’t make fools of yourselves. #DontKneel’, ‘If Lewandowski doesn’t play at Wembley only to refrain from taking a knee, he has my full support’ and ‘Somebody should say to the English that a Pole kneels only before God’.

The president of the **Polish Football Association, Zbigniew Boniek**, also opposed supporting the BLM anti-racist message: ‘There are many more important subjects, more dangerous ones, this is the last one we are interested in. I oppose such actions hands down. This is populism and doesn’t mean anything. Players sometimes take a knee and when asked, they can’t even tell why’ (statement of 29 March, Sport.pl).

Krystyna Pawlowicz, Judge of the Constitutional Tribunal, called on the players not to support the Black Lives Matter action: ‘Polish players, please DO NOT HUMILIATE us! Somebody’s gone crazy with that kneeling. KEEP YOUR HONOUR AND DIGNITY! Nobody apologized to Poland and Poles

for a genocide! Football fans! You sing patriotic chants, please call the players to behave like a Pole' (30 March, Twitter).

Taking a knee against racial discrimination was attacked also by a member of the **Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (Polish People's party)**, **Adam Wojciechowski**, who used far-right rhetoric: *'Why #wedontkneel? For one, we had nothing to do with colonialism and racism. Secondly, BLM stands for racism (against the whites), (neo)-Marxism, communism and all kinds of moral deviance'* (30 March, Twitter).

ŁÓDŹ. On 30 March, during a session of the Council of the Lodz Voivodeship the Councillor **Waldemar Wojciechowski**, head of the **Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice** governing party) council club, made an antisemitic statement. During a discussion on the state of agriculture in the Lodz Voivodeship the Counsellor claimed, *'There is a nice saying. Why doesn't a Jew buy land? Because the land cannot be ripped off'*. For these words he was publicly criticised by the former Mayor of Lodz Jerzy Kropiwnicki, according to whom Wojciechowski's words *'perpetuate the image of Jews as crooks and people who avoid working in agriculture. The former is harmful, and the latter shows his utter lack of historical knowledge'*.

APRIL 2021

SIEMIANOWICE SLASKIE. In the first half of April, a member of the Uotwarty Slunsk Collective submitted a notification to the Public Prosecutor's Office about xenophobic comments posted on a popular **Wykop.pl** portal which were offensive to Silesians. Here are some examples of the entries: *'It's funny that these Silesian tossers cannot even speak Polish correctly :) I despise [them]'*, *'Silesians, like Nazis, should be sent to Siberia'*, *'These Silesian Pol*cks are ridiculous, they think that if they lick the German anuses, those will magically accept them into their group. Well, no, my little Silesian, a German can only spit on you in disgust, just like any normal Pole does'*. On 1 June 2021, the Public Prosecutor's Office refused to investigate the matter further. The justification referred to the Act on National and Ethnic Minorities, according to which Silesians are not considered a minority. [Silesia – region in south-western Poland; part of its population considers themselves a distinct nationality – translator's note]

WARSAW. On 5 April, **Monika Jaruzelska**, a Councillor on Warsaw City Council, published an interview with **Sebastian Piton** on her YouTube channel. Piton is known for having organised a social movement denying the COVID-19 epidemic, which exacerbated the health risks faced by Polish society. A significant part of Jaruzelska's interview with Piton focused on relativising the wartime collaboration of **Goralenvolk** (a Germanisation campaign organised between 1939-45 in the Podhale region of southern Poland). Piton tried to dismiss critical judgement of these actions by saying, *'If this was given to meticulous historians for judgement, then I think that there would be nothing to be ashamed of and then it would turn out that it's not that bad, that the highlanders did not in fact betray and did not have the intentions that are assigned to them'*. He also denied facts about the Jedwabne pogrom [massacre of Jewish inhabitants of Jedwabne perpetrated by the Polish population of the town in presence of German occupying forces in 1941 – translator's note]: *'[...]*

propaganda says that furious Poles killed however many, one and a half thousand Jews and then probably, in light of the facts, it was the Einsatzkommando that gathered Jews in the barn and there weren't as many, and the Poles were used as a labour force, to help, with guns to their backs'. Jaruzelska did not deny these statements and responded, 'All of these stories are used to divide us, Poles', to which Piton responded, 'Rhetoric of shame'. During the conversation he also commented on his own words from 2015, when during a protest against helping the refugees he yelled, 'Let them know they will not get away from Koscielisko alive. Let the world know that Podhale is xenophobic'. During the interview with Jaruzelska he upheld these racist statements by saying, 'I believe that a multicultural model of society isn't good. [...] If all societies are mixed together into one, then they are the same everywhere'.

NOWA WIES ELCKA. On 6 April, activists from the local community reported in the media that the former Evangelical cemetery had been destroyed. Construction works were being carried out on the premises of the cemetery, during which heavy equipment devastated tombstones of Mazurians and World War I soldiers, thus uncovering human remains. A statement on the matter was issued by the Mazurian Diocese of the Lutheran Church: *'The destruction was carried out by the Parish Priest of the Roman Catholic Parish of St Joseph in Nowa Wies Elcka, with written permission of the Bishop of Elk'.*

It was later revealed that the Elk Municipality Office had been informed at the beginning of October 2020 by a local resident about the works taking place in the cemetery and the damage done. *'On 28 September, I found trees, which had been cut down, lying on the graves of the deceased, as well as overturned and damaged epitaph plates and displaced tombstones',* the resident reported in her letter to the municipality. The woman also stressed that the cemetery in Nowa Wies Elcka has a particular cultural and historical value representing the peculiar heritage of the Mazurian land and is a testimony of a multicultural local community living there. Officials have not taken any action regarding the devastated cemetery.

The Evangelical cemetery was established in the first half of the 19th century. After the war, it ceased to belong to Evangelicals. Currently the administrator of the area is the Parish Priest of the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Joseph the Craftsman, Fr. **Andrzej Bryg**. According to Bryg, the works in the cemetery and removal of the Evangelical gravestones were undertaken in order to create new burial plots.

On 18 June 2021, the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Elk announced that the Parish Priest from Nowa Wies Elcka was charged with desecrating corpses, human ashes, or resting places, and destroying a historic gravesite of soldiers from World War I.

POLAND. On 7 April, Lukasz Kohut, a Wiosna party Member of European Parliament, reported on social media about far-right threats he had received on Facebook from a resident of Pruszkow, who was a former employee of the Catholic publishing house **Apostolicum** (as per information on his profile). The man threatened Kohut by saying: *'German c*nt, stay away from Polish Silesia and apologise to the Polish President you f*cking piece of trash', 'Someday all of you c*nts will pay', 'The*

nation's anger is growing you f*cking piece of trash' and 'F*ck off to the Reich'. Lukasz Kohut is from Katowice and is in favour of recognising Silesian nationality and the Silesian language as a regional language.

POLAND. On 8 April, Szymon Holownia, the leader of Polska 2050 Association, posted International Roma Day greetings on his Twitter account. He wrote, *'To Polish Roma, today I would like to wish from the bottom of my heart that they could freely exercise their rights as citizens of Poland'*. Many comments posted under his statement were defamatory towards the Roma community, for example: *'Take them to your house, they are all thieves'*, *'and so that they steal less and con people less'* and *'then go to a Roma village you f*g and tell it to them instead of f*cking posting it on Twitter you f*cking sloven'*.

SZCZECIN. On 9 April, the *'patostreamer'* **Lukasz W.** aka **Kamerzysta (Cameraman)** uploaded a video on his YouTube channel in which he and his friends abused an 18-year-old boy with an intellectual disability. [A *'patostream'* is a live broadcast on a video streaming website which includes behaviours commonly considered to be socially deviant, such as alcohol abuse, domestic violence, or profanity. Word formation in Polish: pathology plus streaming – translator's note].

The tormentors persuaded the boy to perform humiliating and dangerous activities, such as rolling in mud, eating excrement, jumping into a rubbish container, and smashing bricks on his head. The Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Szczecin opened an investigation into the case. Eventually, the three culprits were charged with abusing a person with intellectual disability, and the author of the video Lukasz W. spent six months in custody (he was released on bail on 2 October 2021). YouTube removed the video only four days later, by which time it had reached almost half a million views.

POLAND. On 12 April, **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament **Jacek Wilk** who is known for denying the COVID-19 epidemic posted a picture on Twitter, where the symbol of the Auschwitz camp was used to mock the media reports about a possible need to get a third dose of the vaccine. The image was a caricature of barracks and a main entrance gate resembling the one in Auschwitz. It featured a sign saying *'Impfen macht frei'* (*'Vaccination makes you free'*) with Polish translation underneath. In the image, the camp guards held giant syringes instead of guns, and in the distance, inside the camp, there was a figure of a stereotypically looking Chinese man and Bill Gates (a reference to conspiracy theories which blame China for starting the pandemic on purpose, and Gates for implanting microchips into those who are vaccinated in order to control humankind). Wilk commented on the image, *'Yeeyees!! Finally!!! We finally have OFFICIAL announcements that the third dose will be needed XD. The forecast of «freaks» turned out to be true once again – the doping industry has its golden harvest. I fully understand these policymakers – such a cash cow only appears once in a blue moon'*. The material also referred to antisemitic conspiracy theories (about supposed financial gain from commemorating the Holocaust) and pictured the COVID-19 vaccine as a life-threatening coercion.

The State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau posted a statement on Twitter in response to Jacek Wilk's scandalous post: *'The instrumentalisation of the tragedy of those who suffered and died in German*

concentration and extermination camps, and the use of the symbolism of Auschwitz in the discussion of life-saving vaccinations, which degrades the memory of the victims, is immoral and painful abuse’.

WROCLAW. On 14 April, in a shop on Teczowa Street, a man shouted at two saleswomen, *‘The Ukrainians beat me up and I will do the same to you, I will kill you, I will hurt you, get the f*ck out’*, and *‘You are a f*cked up Ukrainian’*. On 4 April 2022, the Regional Court in Wroclaw sentenced **Piotr P.** to a total of one year of restriction of freedom, including 20 hours of community service a month, for insults based on nationality and directing threats of beating and death at the Ukrainian women.

WARSAW. On 15 April, the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** YouTube channel published a video titled *‘«Antisemitism? A beautiful idea!» But really?’* featuring **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz**, an ex-commentator of **Radio Maryja** (a Catholic-nationalist radio station with a long record of antisemitic statements). He said: *‘Antisemitism as a form of attitude towards the Jews is very old. Well, I think the Jews should think it over, because isn’t it the case that if, say, nobody likes Johnny wherever he appears, then it is Johnny’s fault and not of those who dislike him?’* He also referred to ‘Judeo-communism’ conspiracy theory, which is one of the most frequent antisemitic themes in Michalkiewicz’s speeches: *‘Right now Europe and North America are the scene of a communist revolution, and it is clear, and [...] the Judeo-communism is its avant-garde just like in previous communist revolutions. [...] And since the Jews think they are predestined to rule the world [...] it bears certain consequences on them’.*

The broadcast in the Media Narodowe referred to the title of Michalkiewicz’s book *‘Antisemitism? A Beautiful Idea!’*, which praises antisemitism. In the book, the author ascribes genocidal tendencies to the Jews: *‘who can say for certain that if **Adolf Hitler** had not had an anti-Jewish obsession, the Jews would not have collaborated with the Germans in exterminating other nationalities?’* Moreover, one of the chapters is titled ‘Masturbation with the Holocaust’ and says Poland’s law that bans Holocaust denial is *‘a dogmatic version of World War II, especially the version about Auschwitz camp’.*

GRUNWALD. On 18 April, the Olsztyn Equality March (Pride) group reported on Facebook that **Adam Szczepkowski**, Head of the Municipality of Grunwald who is affiliated with **Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc (Law and Justice)** governing party), sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Poland reporting that the Chairwoman of the Municipal Council and a Councillor both have... lesbian daughters. The Olsztyn community highlighted, *‘This information was shared in the context of suggesting their lack of competence to perform the roles they hold’.* In a homophobic ‘denunciation’ to the PM Szczepkowski stigmatised the two opposition Councillors, revealed details about their personal lives, and classified them as *‘opponents of the municipality’s development’.* Olsztyn activists strongly condemned Szczepkowski’s behaviour, *‘There should never be a situation where sexual orientation and gender identity is used to slander anyone, including parents of LGBT+ people’.*

POLAND. On 18 April, on the eve of the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, **Bartłomiej Kurzeja**, a co-founder of the far-right **Telewizja Narodowa** (so-called **National TV**, an online TV channel), known for involvement in antisemitic incidents (in 2020 he was convicted of inciting

hatred), posted the following statement on Twitter: *‘The Warsaw ghetto uprising is a myth!!! There was no such thing. It was a rebellion of the collaborators of the German occupants. We demand the dismantling of the memorial statue of the «ghetto uprising» as it is a symbol of communist propaganda!’* These radical antisemitic statements were elaborated on in a recording which was broadcast on 19 April on his YouTube channel. He once again denied what happened in the Warsaw Ghetto in the spring of 1943 and accused the Jews of collaborating with the Nazis and playing a role in the extermination of their own people. He claimed, *‘It’s a myth, it’s a lie, it’s stupidity, because it has to be said clearly: there was no uprising in the Warsaw ghetto’*. He added that the Jews who *‘grabbed weapons’* were *‘German collaborators’*, and continued, *‘It’s one big hoax that there was some kind of an uprising. It was a feud in the family and these Jewish collaborators were no insurgents, but they just shot each other. How many Germans died? One? Two? It is unknown. Over one and a half days’*. In the recording Kurzeja also yelled, *‘Enough with the Jewish lies’*, and demanded that the media stop pushing the *‘Jewish venom’* and *‘the lie that there was an uprising in the ghetto’*. Moreover, he demanded the dismantling of the Warsaw statue of the Heroes of the Ghetto by the sculptor Natan Rapoport (it was unveiled on 19 April 1948), *‘because it perpetuates the falsehood and the communist lie about the uprising’*.

GDANSK. On 20 April, in Suchanin, two men assaulted a Ukrainian national. The victim was sitting in a car with his friends, when the attackers threw insults at him that referenced his origin and damaged the car with a metal bar. They broke a window and damaged the car’s body. Police were called to the site where the Ukrainian victim informed them that the attackers had been harassing him since the beginning of April. They verbally assaulted him and threatened him because of his nationality. Both men were detained. They were charged with public defamation and issuing threats based on national affiliation, as well as destruction of property. The investigation in this case was conducted by the District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Gdansk-Oliwa.

WARSAW. On 20 April, **Adam Gmurczyk**, head of the far-right party **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (National Rebirth of Poland)**, shared a song on his Twitter account by the Slovak neo-Nazi band **Krátky Proces** which includes lyrics calling for killing Jews. Gmurczyk’s post also included a quote from the song and the following comment: *‘An old Slovak message to the pejsowaci [‘Pejs’ means ‘sidelock’ and is used as an antisemitic slur; thus, ‘pejsowaci’ is an antisemitic adjective – translator’s note] in a contemporary musical arrangement: «Vsetci zidia utekaju lebo maju strach... Rez a rubaj do krve...» [«All Jews flee from fear... Tear and cut to blood» – translator’s note]’*. The lyrics of the song are the words of the anthem of **Hlinka’s Guard**, a paramilitary formation of Fr. **Jozef Tiso’s Slovak People’s Party** that ruled in the fascist Slovak state from March 1939. In 1942, its members took part in deportations of the Jewish people to death camps together with the **SS**. Gmurczyk’s post was not removed from Twitter despite reports from the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association. The song by **Krátky Proces** was, however, removed from YouTube for promoting hatred after being reported by a Slovak anti-racist organisation in collaboration with the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association.

OLECKO. On 20 April, during a session of the Committee for Complaints, Requests and Petitions of the City Council, Councillor **Janina Anuszkiewicz**, who is also the Chair of the Health Commission,

promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories. During a debate about a petition related to the COVID-19 vaccines she claimed, *'Bill Gates is the main chief of the pharmaceutical companies, so he's the mob leader who governs all these vaccines. This is established and what is weird is that they showed on TV how they vaccinate Jews. They just got the vaccines and there were no side effects [...]. However, these vaccines are very harmful. [...] right now the vaccinated are infecting others'*. Later Anuszkiewicz continued with this phantasmagorical vision, *'In Warsaw there are blocks of flats which stand empty, unoccupied. They are waiting for the Jews. They will murder us all and later take over. Jews have, to this day, not recognised Jesus. They are the chosen nation and are awaiting the Messiah. We know about the descent of Bill Gates and the rest of them. They are doing everything to rule the world, just like **Hitler** did for the Aryan race to rule the world'*.

On 27 April, during a meeting of the Committee for Pro-Family Policy, Healthcare and Safety, the Councillors did not agree to introduce to the agenda a motion to dismiss Janina Anuszkiewicz from her position as chair due to her antisemitic statements.

WARSAW. On 20 April, **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** (well-known extremist and chauvinist) posted the following Tweet: *'There really isn't any evidence that **Hitler** knew about the Holocaust'*. This statement was accompanied by a link to a video on Korwin-Mikke's YouTube channel in which he called Hitler *'the greatest European socialist'* and once again denied his responsibility for the Holocaust. He claimed, *'There really is no evidence that Hitler knew anything about it. [...] he could have not known anything about the Holocaust, because he did not preoccupy himself with that at all. If no one told him about it then it's clear he could have known nothing about it'*.

On the same day, 20 April, Konfederacja MP **Dobromir Sosnierz** seconded Korwin-Mikke's words. In one of his press interviews he claimed, *'The thesis is just that Hitler did not know about the Holocaust. I don't know if he knew or not. What is so outrageous in this statement? I don't really understand...'*

WARSAW. On 20 April, on **TVP Info** (state-owned news channel) in the programme *'#Jedziemy Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc (Law and Justice governing party)* Member of the European Parliament **Zbigniew Kuzmiuk** made a statement with xenophobic overtones, when commenting on a scene from the film *'Stan Zagrozenia'* directed by Ewa Stankiewicz about the Smolensk disaster [plane crash in 2010 in which the President of Poland and many other senior officials died – translator's note]. The scene in question is set in the Moscow mortuary where the bodies of the victims were kept. Kuzmiuk stated, *'This seems to be part of the Asian nature, they have a lack of respect for corpses, unfortunately to utmost astonishment, this kind of culture is also presented by the leading politicians of the PO [Platforma Obywatelska – Civic Platform, main Polish opposition party – translator's note]'*. His statement was also posted on TVP Info's Twitter account.

WARSAW. On 21 April, **TVP Info** (state-owned news channel) presenter **Jaroslaw Jakimowicz** posted vulgar, homophobic comments on his social media channels. He addressed an internet user with the following words: *'The snout is your mother's, f*ggot'*, and *'Write your phone number in a DM and we'll talk in real life, f*ggot'*. In recent years, Jakimowicz has repeatedly used hate speech

online. For example, on 21 April 2019, he posted an antisemitic drawing on his Facebook profile with the caption *'Poland not Polin'* along with a Star of David in place of the letter 'O' in the word 'Polin' [the word means Poland in Hebrew; for the extreme right it has become synonymous with the alleged rule of the Jews over Poland – translator's note].

Facebook has repeatedly blocked Jakimowicz's account because his comments violated its terms and regulations, including *'stalking and harassment'* (1 September and 8 October 2020), *'nudity or sexual activity'* (19 October 2020), and *'promoting hatred'* (27 October 2020).

Jakimowicz did not face any consequences from TVP Info in connection with these posts, although according to the Code of Media Ethics of TVP (Polish Television), *'Journalists should consider social media as a form of public statement, and should remember that he or she represents TVP, and the private comments of journalists known to work with TVP can be considered as endorsed by TVP'*, Section XVI.3).

POLAND. On 22 April, the website **nacjonalista.pl** affiliated with the far-right party **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (National Rebirth of Poland)** published an extremely antisemitic article entitled 'Judeofilia: Andrzej Duda i jego «nasi»' ('Judeophilia: Andrzej Duda and his «ours»'). The text contained a number of statements insulting the memory of the Holocaust victims. It referred to the speech that Andrzej Duda, the President of Poland, gave on the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, and stated that Polish Jews should not be considered members of the Polish nation, *'They were not ours and Poles understood this perfectly well before and during the war. Hundreds of years of the presence of these comers to Polish soil is a clear confirmation of that'*. The article also contained insults towards the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto: *'The «kosher pedagogy» has been implemented for years. Every year on the anniversary of the «so-called uprising» at the site of the place of isolation in Warsaw'*. The truth about the Holocaust was also questioned as the *'stories about 6 million'*. Denying the truth about the Nazi crimes is a violation of Polish law, but the National Rebirth of Poland community has been preaching similar content with impunity for years.

WARSAW. On 22 April, on **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, the host **Marcin Rola** and the guest, **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament **Robert Winnicki**, made antisemitic comments about a video material featuring a group of Orthodox Jews from Israel who performed a prayer dance at the Warsaw Chopin Airport after landing. Discussing the issue of compliance with sanitary restrictions related to COVID-19 neither of the interviewees mentioned that Israel already had a very high vaccination rate and that there were no other passengers in the hall. Winnicki said, *'I would like to see the headline in tomorrow's «Gazeta Wyborcza»* [liberal daily – translator's note]: *«Sowers of death at the Warsaw airport» and a photo of Orthodox Jews, or a TVN [major independent channel] report about how Orthodox Jews spread death at the airport in Warsaw'*.

Many antisemitic comments appeared under the YouTube video including: *'Jews are allowed!!! Especially in Poland'*, *'We Poles probably don't have our own country anymore. The partition continues'*, *'We know who is staying on Wiejska Street* [where the Polish Parliament is located – translator's note] *– Jewry'*, *'They are already waiting for the property of Poles'*, *'We just have to*

resist the presence of this ethnic group on the territory of the Republic of Poland, their dominance and influence on politics’, ‘Only Hans with a heavy machine gun was missing. He would organise a Pakistani disco for them’, ‘Chopin [Airport] was covered with lice’, ‘Like bugs and cockroaches when one picks up a stone’.

WARSAW. On 22 April, the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** YouTube channel published an interview with **Tadeusz Matuszyk** (former anti-communist dissident in the 1980s, active in Solidarity’s nationalist faction) who made antisemitic comments based on conspiracy theories. He said: ‘*The Jews always and everywhere intended to do harm to the Polish nation*’. He also stated they were responsible for the Soviet aggression against Poland: ‘*And in 1939 they made sure Stalin outrageously and brutally attacked Poles on our lands. [...] So Stalin put us under Jewish occupation*’. Later Matuszyk called the Jews ‘parasites’: ‘*They went wherever civilization had already existed, where they could find wealth, extensive trade, industry, craft, because it was before industry, so they showed this parasitic tendency in order to sponge these nations*’. And further: ‘*Jonquil is a parasitic flower, it is a poisonous flower; if they chose it as a symbol of their movement, of their Jewishness, then they clearly tell us that they are parasites, vermin*’ (yellow jonquil is a symbol of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Every year, on 19 April anniversary of the uprising, Marek Edelman, a former leader of the fighters, would lay jonquils in front of the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes in Warsaw). Matuszyk also accused the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw: he called the museum ‘*Jewish jaczejka*’ (the word ‘*jaczejka*’ can refer to a basic political unit of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union or to political units within the Red Army or to some conspiracy group), ‘*which still vilifies Poland and Poles, and which is the source of evil, mendacity and untruth, and this jaczejka was founded, as one can say, by enormous Polish money, out of our drudgery*’. The host **Agnieszka Borkiewicz** agreed with Matuszyk, and said that: ‘*in the early period of the war, one can even say that the Jews had it better than the Poles*’. Referring to a book by **Wojciech Sumlinski** ‘**Return to Jedwabne**’, she also said that Poles carried ‘*Stars of David in order to pretend they are Jewish, so that nothing worse happens to them*’. Her interlocutor readily agreed: ‘*Yes! They had the star in their pockets!*’ (the Nazis forced the Jews to wear the Star of David armbands in the ghettos. The claims made in the broadcast amount to a minimization of the cruelty of the Nazis’ treatment of the Jews during the Holocaust).

WARSAW. An article by **Wojciech Cejrowski** (Polish right-wing celebrity and traveller) entitled ‘The Supremacy of My Race’, which included anti-Islamic and racist themes was published in an issue of the weekly right-wing magazine ‘**Do Rzeczy**’ (26 April – 3 May). The article contained the following: ‘*Let us now return to the superiority of the white man’s civilisation over the rest of the world. Do I look at primitive tribes with civilisational superiority? OF COURSE. After all, they want to get out of the jungle and put our panties and shirts over their bare Indian backs. [...] They are the ones who want to GET CIVILISED. And... both sides agree that the white man’s civilisation is more developed than the wild tribe’s primitive culture. It is NORMAL to consider our culture the highest available one*’, ‘*Islam persecutes women, cuts people’s heads off, blows people up. Christianity does not do this, because it is a morally HIGHER culture/civilisation, and since it is higher, we have a DUTY to treat barbaric Islam with superiority and fight its manifestations*’, ‘*Therefore, when asked if I look at savages with civilisational superiority, I answer: OF COURSE*’, ‘*Our civilisation has*

climbed to a higher level of development, and this is what we want for others. White man's civilisation, Christian culture, is the highest level of development to which humanity has risen'.

In connection with Cejrowski's article, on 27 April, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association filed a complaint with the Media Ethics Council, which agreed that the complaint was justified: *'All of the content indicated in the complaint is present in the criticised column. W. Cejrowski's text is characterised by ignorance, lack of tolerance or objectivity. The column contains generalisations that do not reflect the truth about the described situations. The author breaks the rules of responsibility, honesty and common decency'*. However, at the same time, the Media Ethics Council stated that the publication of such content does not contradict the Media Ethics Charter, because Cejrowski's text is a column publication [sic!]. In response to this bizarre opinion, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association emphasised that Cejrowski's article, in fact, appeared to be an ideological manifesto and that, regardless of genre, nowhere does the Media Ethics Charter state that elementary ethical principles do not apply to texts subjectively categorised as 'column publications'. *'Preaching contempt towards another human being, preaching racist views, seems to be an extreme violation of ethical principles that are protected by the Media Ethics Council (quoted as «The principle of respect and tolerance – that is, respect for human dignity»).* Proclamation of racist views is also a violation of the Polish Penal Code (Articles 256 and 257)'.

MAY 2021

WROCLAW. On 1 May, a group of about twenty men attacked a peaceful Labour Day demonstration organised by left-wing circles on John Paul II Square. The attackers threw smoke bombs at the participants. Intervening police officers prevented further acts of aggression. Five men with expandable truncheons and gas throwers were arrested.

BELCHATOW. The May issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')* published a collection of photos with graffiti painted by the hooligans of **Motor Lublin** (third division). Some included the inscription: *'Our honour is loyalty'*, which was the **SS** motto: *'Meine Ehre heißt Treue'* (trans. *'My honour means loyalty'*). This slogan has been in use for many years on banners held by the hooligans of Motor Lublin.

BELCHATOW. The May issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')* ran an article about the hooligans of **GKP Targówek**, with images taken at matches of that team. On one of them, the hooligans displayed a huge banner with a Celtic cross (a symbol of the so-called *'white power'*) and banners with the Star of David crossed-out and some pornographic and homophobic graphics. Another photo presented a banner with a Celtic cross, displayed on the fence around the pitch.

SWIDNIK. On the night of 1/2 May, *'unknown perpetrators'* vandalised the private kindergarten and nursery Rainbow House. They poured an oily substance onto the colourful façade of the building, as well as onto equipment in the playground. The damage was probably caused for homophobic reasons due to the kindergarten's name and rainbow symbols visible on the building.

The kindergarten had also been vandalised earlier, in December 2018 (someone poured paint onto the walls of the building). In March 2019, the County Council of Swidnik adopted a declaration entitled 'Swidnik County free of «LGBT» ideology', which encouraged discrimination against people belonging to sexual minorities.

LODZ. On 4 May, the municipal police were informed about the inscription 'F*ck Jews' which appeared on the façade of a tenement house on Wschodnia Street, near the seat (head office) of the Jewish Community. Antisemitic slogans also appeared on other buildings on the same street and were likely painted in March by football hooligans.



WARSAW. On 17 May, on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel was released an interview with **Laura Lipinska** from the **Zycie i Rodzina Foundation (Life and Family)**, a pseudo pro-life foundation), an organisation led by **Kaja Godek**, a former candidate from the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) list in the 2019 European Parliament elections. The programme was entitled 'An EFFECTIVE antidote to HOMO invasion! We are the FIRST to show this method'. The broadcast concerned the draft law 'Stop LGBT' which, according to the initiators' declarations, would 'protect public spaces from homopropaganda'. Lipinska made false accusations against sexual minorities: 'Pedophilia [is] more common among practising homosexuals and incidents of crime [are] also much higher'; and '[homosexuality] can be compared to a bipolar disorder or even to cancer'. Finally, she concluded 'The LGBT movement has all the hallmarks of a totalitarian movement and is simply harmful. It is something that offends and attacks children and young people [...], being outraged by this we have the right to simply ban this type of gathering'.

POLAND. On 18 May, after a game of Counter-Strike: Global Offensive at the e-sports tournament Flashpoint between a Polish team Anonymo Esports and Sweden-based Ninjas in Pyjamas, the Internet saw an influx of hateful comments against the Swedish players. Polish users published insults and death threats. Jonas Gundersen of the Board of Ninjas in Pyjamas tweeted: 'An emotional and controversial time, that we are trying to be as respectful about as possible. However, death threats and toxicity towards players who are just here to play and compete in the game that they are, is something none of us should tolerate. Please have respect for that'. The team of Anonymo Esports lent support for the Swedish team, too.

WARSAW. On 18 May, on Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street a man riding a bicycle spat on and insulted a woman who along with two other people was holding a rainbow flag (a symbol of the LGBT community). When Katarzyna Augustynek, an activist known as Babcia Kasia (Granny Kasia), stood in her defence, she was insulted and thrown to the ground by a second cyclist. The attackers were identified as **Jan G.** and his father **Krzysztof G.**, an off-duty police officer. A passer-by tried to help the victimised women, but he was stopped by police officers who wanted to check his identity, while the two perpetrators left the scene.

WARSAW. On 18 May, on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel was released a programme entitled: ‘ANTI-Polish action by the Jews! It’s not a coincidence! Israeli occupation in Poland?’ with the participation of **Wojciech Sumlinski**, co-author of books undermining the historical truth about the 1941 pogrom in Jedwabne. During the broadcast, he said *‘Not much, in fact, nothing can surprise me when it comes to meanness, cunning, putting the cart before the horse etc. by the broadly understood Jewish community, and do not imagine... do not let them put wool over your eyes, that it is «some Jews», or «some exceptions to the rule», or that «as a rule there is friendship between Poland and Israel». Well, there is no friendship, and never has been [...]. We are goys to them, more than animals but less than humans in the full sense of the word’*. He then continued his conspiratorial outbursts accusing the Jews of collaborating with Germany during World War II: *‘[The Jews] always allied themselves with our invader. [...] This was so even with the Germans; in 1940 they had a «1939 symbiosis» believing the Germans that in Poland the Poles were their enemy and that the ghettos which they had built for themselves [...] were enclaves of safety. [...] Let the Germans murder Poles outside [the ghettos] whilst we will have such enclaves here’*. **Agnieszka Borkiewicz**, the host of the programme, also managed to fit a number of bizarre conspiracy theories into the broadcast. Mentioning the 80th anniversary of the pogrom in Jedwabne and the ‘spitting on Poland’, she asked: *‘Sir, what exactly is the ultimate goal here? Is it about destroying the reputation of Poland in the world or about the takeover of Polish lands by the Jews settling here on our territory, or is it something else?’* She also enquired: *‘Can we say that Poland is under Israeli occupation?’* to which Sumlinski replied: *‘Even if it isn’t full occupation we are still certainly heading towards a full dependence on the Jews and their duress’*.

WARSAW. On 19 May, **Monika Jaruzelska** (Warsaw Councillor and lecturer at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities) broadcast an interview with a far-right columnist **Piotr Korczarowski** on her YouTube channel. Korczarowski who is the creator of the far-right **eMisjaTV** channel and head of **Inicjatywa Przeciwko Cenzurze (Initiative Against Censorship)** Foundation is known for making antisemitic statements. At the beginning of the conversation, Jaruzelska expressed her appreciation for her guest’s activities by saying, *‘I watch your programme, I admire your programme’*. She then mocked the monitoring activities carried out by the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association stating, *‘Currently you are on the programme of an author who has already been mentioned twice in the «Brown Book»’*. Jaruzelska also assured the viewers that she would not change the current formula of her programme (i.e. that she would continue to invite and support representatives of the extreme right, known for promoting hatred).

During the interview, Korczarowski touched upon the so-called Jewish lobby that allegedly rules in Poland and other countries: *‘Messages from ministries for foreign affairs show what kind of lobby rules in a given country. There was also a period in Poland when Szewach Weiss [Israeli Ambassador to Poland between 2001-2003 – translator’s note] was presented as a friend of Poles, who happened to speak in a positive spirit from time to time. Although I remember his conversation with **Grzegorz Braun** [far-right **Konfederacja – Confederation** party Member of Parliament], which, in my opinion, was crushing for him in terms of supporting these groundless claims’*. At this point, Jaruzelska clarified that Korczarowski was referring to the so-called Act 447 (The Justice for Holocaust Survivors Act was passed in 2018 in the US and is falsely portrayed by supporters of the

far right as an order for Poland to pay the alleged 'Jewish claims'). Speaking about Israeli politicians, Korczarowski stated, *'these are genuine racists, these are people who apply solutions taken straight from the Third Reich'*. Asked why he was interested in Jewish issues, he replied, *'I see a large overrepresentation and a very strong Jewish lobby around the world [...]. It is important to stop talking about Jews as sacred cows. The Holocaust happened a long time ago and they are not the only nation that has suffered a terrible tragedy'*.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 20 May, during the session of the Bielsko-Biala City Council **Jacek Krywult**, a Councillor and former City Mayor, made an insulting statement about Peter Wilson, a footballer from Liberia who plays for the Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala Football Club. Commenting on the relegation of the team from Ekstraklasa to the first league, Krywult said, *'700,000 PLN was spent on agent commissions, this is the data. Who bought this N*gro? Sorry, I don't remember the name'*.

OLAWA. On 20 May, on Market Square in front of the Town Hall, **Robert Bakiewicz**, head of the **Independence March Squads**, made xenophobic claims. During his speech on *'Ukrainian immigration and the dangers it entails'*, Bakiewicz said, *'There is an ethnic replacement happening, Poles go abroad, Ukrainians come and settle here. Ukrainians use social welfare and have certain privileges that, in our opinion, should be reserved for Polish citizens'*. Then he demanded that illegal and radical measures be taken against the Ukrainian minority in Poland, that *'all social activities for Ukrainians staying in the Polish Republic [sic!] be suspended and that an immigration memorandum [Bakiewicz probably meant an immigration moratorium, in line with the far-right demands to stop all Ukrainian immigration to Poland – translator's note] be introduced to stop immigration that will bring us the same effects as in Western Europe'*. Bakiewicz added that, *'in Western Europe we have the effect of multiculturalism – multi-culti'*. He also mentioned attacks and conflicts on ethnic and cultural grounds in this context, and then stated that *'These problems are also brought to Poland by Ukrainians'*. He ended his speech with a demand to *'stop the mass immigration of Ukrainians and other nationalities to Poland'*. **Pawel Kryszczak** from the Independence March Squads also took the floor and pointed to the inscriptions in Ukrainian at the entrance to some toilets in Wroclaw as an example of the *'Ukrainian problem'*. He reinforced the xenophobic tone of these words with an absurd comment that, *'This way they will never be polonized'*. The speech by Bakiewicz and Kryszczak was published on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube.

WARSAW. On 20 May, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, a commentator for **TV Republika (Republic TV)**, a far-right TV and YouTube channel, broadcast a video entitled *'Will the German Spit in Our Faces'* on his YouTube channel in which he made bizarre Islamophobic comments, and promoted conspiracy theories and disinformation. Among other things, he stated, *'Morocco lives mainly off the sale of drugs to Europe. Morocco is a country of a very orthodox form of Islam, so nobody there dares to take drugs themselves, because this, as well as sexual perversions, are punishable by the death penalty. But all these things are willingly offered to Europeans, because it is a gift from Allah who will to destroy Europe'*. In addition, in the context of refugees arriving in Ceuta, the Spanish exclave in Morocco (the European Union's only land border with Africa), he expressed support for shooting at defenceless people, *'When someone tries to cross this border, Moroccan guards shoot, and*

therefore they are quite effective, while the Spanish guards do not shoot, because how can you shoot at immigrants, who are a great added value and enrich those countries where they choose to go?'

WARSAW. On 21 May, far-right columnist **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, former commentator of **TVP Info** (state-owned national news channel), broadcast a recording on his YouTube channel containing abuse towards the activist Frank Vetulani and the US-based organisation Global Project Against Hate and Extremism (GPAHE). Referring to Vetulani's public actions in defence of the LGBT community and against nationalism, Ziemkiewicz called him 'a *degenerate descendant of a famous family*', 'a *big red pig*' and a 'red creep'. Turning to the anti-racist organisation GPAHE, he attacked it for its 2020 report on hate speech which quoted his antisemitic and homophobic statements. Information about this report was also included in Ziemkiewicz's biography on Wikipedia. For this reason, he referred to the editors of Wikipedia as '*lefty gangsters*' and called for '*neutralising of the bunch of slanderers*', words which could be interpreted as a threat to critics of Ziemkiewicz.

WARSAW. On 21 May, the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** YouTube channel published an interview with **Radoslaw Patlewicz**, the author of the book '***Mord rytualny w Rzeszowie? Sledztwo historyczne***' ('***Ritual murder in Rzeszow? A historical investigation***'). The book repeats false accusations against the Jews about murdering Christians (blood libel). During the broadcast, Patlewicz hoped that this kind of antisemitic opinion would become popular: '*Constant dropping wears away a stone. And this is the case of ritual murder. We see that the other side begins to panic, right? But here this myth starts to crumble; the myth that they have forced us to believe for well over two centuries, that the Jews would absolutely not do something like this*' (for centuries, the Jews were accused of ritually murdering Christian children. It led to rigged trials, torture, and eventually death sentences. Blood libel also triggered anti-Jewish pogroms, including in modern times).

JAROSLAW. On 22 May during the fifth division match **JKS Jaroslaw** – Karpaty Krosno, hooligans of **GKS Katowice**, friends with the local team, used racial slurs against Pedro Banks, a black player for Karpaty. They shouted: '*F*ck the N*gro, JKS is a white team*'.

GDANSK. On 25 May at a local restaurant, some 30 hooligans of **Lechia Gdansk** assaulted fans of Manchester United, who came for the finals of the Europa League (on 26 May, Manchester was supposed to play against Villarreal). One of the victims said: '*They just started to attack us with fists*', another added: '*They used glass. I didn't know what was going on. I was hit with a glass piece*'. Three citizens of Malta were injured. The incident was condemned by President of Gdansk Aleksandra Dulcikiewicz: '*In Gdansk, an open and supportive city, there is no room for any kind of violence. Dear fans of Manchester United and Villarreal, all the visitors to Gdansk – always feel welcome to our city*'.

WARSAW. On 25 May, on the Facebook page of the far-right group **Neos – Nowy system dla Polski (The New System for Poland)** a video was uploaded involving its founder **Mateusz Jarosiewicz** who disseminated antisemitic conspiracy theories and directed threats towards people involved in promoting vaccination against COVID-19. Jarosiewicz stated, '*Father Tadeusz Rydzyk* [a Roman

Catholic priest and the director of the **Radio Maryja** station and TV station, known for antisemitic statements – translator’s note] *gets 30 or 36 or 50 or 100 million zlotys from the Zionists for, for example, supporting and establishing the Zionist party in Poland, which later robs, murders, poisons and kills Poles*. He continued, *‘A paid campaign by YouTubers and celebrities regarding vaccinations has started. [...] This is a betrayal of trust of people to whom they were an authority; they sold people out for financial profits, for shekels, for money’*. Jarosiewicz also showed a list of actors, athletes, and celebrities who promoted the vaccination campaign and called for violence against them, *‘These people are completely crossed out as Poles, as members of our tribe, as people who can live with us normally in our society. [...] They have already signed a social death sentence for themselves in Poland. [...] Such people should be eliminated, destroyed, and expelled from the society’*. He also made threats against the Minister of Health Adam Niedzielski, *‘A death sentence should be hanging in front of his apartment. [...] There should be a printed sentence for treason, for genocide, there should be an execution sentence’*.

The Facebook page of Neos – The New System for Poland, has over 21,000 followers. The video in question had been viewed over 12,000 times at the time of this report. Incidences of hate speech, threats, incitement to violence and conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 appear in the materials published by the organisation.

RIMINI (ITALY). On 26 May, the coach for the Polish male volleyball team **Vital Heynen** expressed racist comments in an interview with Onet Sport portal. His comments concerned accommodation of players during the Nations League. He said: *‘We are living on the same floor as the team from Iran. We are passing each other all the time. This is unacceptable. We were promised a separate floor. On top of that, the Polish and Iranian volleyball players have had an uneasy past. I have no problems with Vladimir Alekno, we’re on good terms, but our players are supposed to stay on the same floor for another month. This is just the beginning of our stay. There is no telling how it will affect us. I filed a complaint about it to the FIVB’*.

WROCLAW. On the night of 26/27 May, on Wyspa Slodowa a man was beaten in a homophobic attack. A group of a few people repeatedly asked the man if he was gay and claimed that he looked like a *‘f*ggot’*. When he tried to leave, he was attacked. One of the men hit him in the back with a shopping trolley and then beat him up. An ambulance was called to the scene. The victim suffered a broken nose, a cut eyebrow, and was taken to hospital. The man reported that an officer at the police precinct in Wroclaw-Olbin suggested that he should not file a criminal report about the incident because *‘nothing will come of it’* and the perpetrators will not be named.

Following the crime, on 3 June, on Solny Square a demonstration took place against violence targeted at LGBT people. Members of **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth**, a far-right organisation) and football hooligans tried to disrupt the peaceful protest.

ZAKOPANE. On 27 May, on the 3rd May Avenue the police made a brutal intervention against an 18-year-old Ukrainian volunteer for the Beneficjum Foundation who was fundraising near a Biedronka supermarket. *‘At some point the store manager called the police on him. When the officers arrived, it turned out they were very unpleasant and aggressive, throwing racist insults such as*

«f*ck off to Ukraine». The volunteer recorded their behaviour. When the policemen realised they were being filmed, they pulled his phone out of his hand breaking his finger', said Wioletta Czajka, the spokesperson for the Foundation, in a media statement. According to her, the officers also threw him to the ground, kicked him and put a knee on his neck. The victim was taken to the hospital. Medical examination confirmed that he had a bruised head and thoracic spine, and a broken finger. The Ukrainian Embassy and the Consulate General were informed about the case. The Ombudsman took up the case and requested detailed information about the incident from the Chief of Police in Zakopane.

LODZ. On 28 May, on Piotrkowska Street six men shouted insults at foreign students dressed in hijabs (Muslim scarfs). One of the women was hit by an aggressor in her lower back. The man also threw a glass of beer at the students. None of the passers-by reacted. According to the victims, the police at the precinct refused to accept their statements, claiming that they did not understand English.

WARSAW. On 29 May, in the Royal Castle during the Polska Wielki Projekt (Poland a Grand Project) congress Prof. **Andrzej Zybertowicz**, a social adviser to the President of Poland Andrzej Duda, made the following comment: *'Playing the victim is necessary in today's culture. We also have to project our power. Israel does that all the time. They built the religion of Holocaust to show that they were a victim'*. The phrase *'religion of Holocaust'* is used by the so-called revisionists of Holocaust in order to trivialise it.

WARSAW. On 29 May, the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** YouTube channel published a video featuring **Tadeusz Matuszyk** (a former anti-communist oppositionist in the 1980s, a board member of the Solidarity Mazowsze Region, active in Solidarity's nationalist faction). He spoke in line with the broadcast's title: *'FRANKLY about Poland, about converting the Jews and about how to take action'*. Speaking about **Radosław Patlewicz's** book about the alleged Jewish ritual murder in Rzeszow in 1945, Matuszyk implied: *'We know very well it is the dreadfulness of Talmud and Talmudists that such things were happening in the 20th century, and certainly continue to happen in the 20th century'*. He continued: *'Of course, it has been proven scientifically, in Swietokrzystkie and Wielkopolska regions, this is scientific evidence'*. Matuszyk thus claimed that the so-called Jewish ritual murder of Christian children was a historical fact. The legend, created in the mid-12th century, belongs to the oldest anti-Jewish fantasies in Europe. Blood libel led to anti-Jewish pogroms also in modern times (a rumour about kidnapping a boy to take his blood for matzah led to the pogrom in Kielce in 1946).

JUNE 2021

WARSAW. On 1 June, on Koszykowa Street next to the South African Embassy a protest organised by extreme-right organisations **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (NOP, National Rebirth of Poland)**, **Stowarzyszenie na rzecz Tradycji i Kultury Niklot (Association for Tradition and Culture Niklot)**, and the far-right magazine **'Szturm' ('Assault')** took place, under the slogan *'Free Janusz Walus! Free the hero'*. Walus is a Polish migrant given a life sentence in South Africa for the 1993

racist murder of Chris Hanı, a politician who fought against apartheid. During the protest at the embassy, **Marzena Dobner**, a member of NOP, read a letter, which both praised the murder committed by Walus and other antisemitic and far-right murders. In demanding his freedom, Dobner called Walus ‘a Polish hero’ and ‘a hero of the South African Republic’, describing the murder he committed as ‘an understandable and heroic act’. Dobner also claimed, ‘The case of Janusz Walus will forever be an act of political perseverance [...] It was a politically sacred execution like the ones performed decades ago by the representatives of the Romanian **Iron Guard**, who guarded their country from the Jewish and red plague. It was like the execution of the President Gabriel Narutowicz by **Eligiusz Niewiadomski** for representing foreign national interests’. The Iron Guard was a fascist organisation, which operated in Romania between 1927-1941. Members of the Iron Guard committed political murders, including organisation of pogroms and killings of Jews, as part of the fascist pro-German government of **Ion Antonescu**. Eligiusz Niewiadomski was a fanatic nationalist who shot the first President of Poland, Gabriel Narutowicz. The assassination took place in December 1922, a couple of days after he had been elected. Niewiadomski was sentenced to death and never expressed remorse for his actions. NOP’s letter was signed by all participants of the protest and by **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp**, an extreme-right political organisation). [Walus was released on parole in December 2022 – translator’s note].

KIELCE. On 4 June during the second division football match **Korona Kielce** – Widzew Lodz, local hooligans displayed a huge banner commemorating the **Brygada Swietokrzyska** (the **Holy Cross Mountains Brigade**) of the **Narodowe Sily Zbrojne (NSZ, National Armed Forces)**. This was the only Polish formation which collaborated with the Nazi occupiers during World War II. The NSZ murdered members of the left-wing resistance movement and people presumed of Jewish origin.

NOWY DWOR MAZOWIECKI. On 5 June during the fourth division football match **Swit Nowy Dwor Mazowiecki** – Polonia Warszawa, local hooligans insulted a black Polonia player, Junior Radzinski. They made monkey chants. The referee failed to react.

SOSNOWIEC. On 6 June during the second division football match **Zaglebie Sosnowiec** – Gornik Leczna, local hooligans displayed a banner stylized to a characteristic red-and-white logo of **Blood and Honour**, a neo-Nazi organisation (its name was a motto of **Hitlerjugend**). Moreover, the banner contained the slogan ‘It has always been and will be a pure country’, a quote from lyrics of a neo-Nazi Polish band **Honor**.

WARSAW. On 8 June, on Krzywicki Street by the Israeli Embassy representatives of **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (NOP, National Rebirth of Poland**, an extreme-right political organisation) organised an antisemitic protest in response to the situation in the Middle East. During the demonstration, **Marzena Dobner**, the leader of the Masovian structures of NOP and a member of its national board, made the following speech: ‘Israel [...] constitutes one of the bloodiest terrorist organisations. The state of Israel has all the characteristics of a structure created solely to fulfil criminal, genocidal goals’. She also argued: ‘We have to unite against this bandit organisation that is Israel, we as Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski and other national-radical groups. [...] As national radicals we have to strive for elimination of the terrorist organisation that is Israel, for its erasure

from the map of the world', and 'Time to bomb Israel!' The participants of the protest, some of whom were representatives of the far-right magazine '**Szturm**' ('**Assault**'), displayed flags of **Hezbollah**, which is considered a terrorist organisation. They also showed signs containing a crossed-out Star of David.

LUBLIN. On 10 June, on Litewski Square Rabbi Symcha Keller, a chazzan and an activist of the Jewish community, was subjected to antisemitic insults from a group of unidentified aggressors. As he was walking past them with his five-year-old daughter, one of the men screamed, '*Hey, f*cking Jew, f*ck off from here!*' The rabbi reported, '*They are screaming at me [...]. One of them stands up and approaches me, there are plenty of people around, no one reacts. I address the most aggressive one: «How are you behaving, man? What is your problem?» As a result, I get even more insults, more aggression. I see the growing fear in my daughter's eyes. I say, «Leave us alone, man» – no reaction. I take out my phone, I want to call the police, that's when they let us go and run between the town houses*'. Rabbi Keller was the Chair of the Religious Council of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Republic of Poland and the Chair of the Jewish Community in Lodz, where he was born. In 2009, he was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta '*for outstanding services in the field of Polish-Jewish dialogue*'.

LONDON. On 11 June, the channel belonging to **Sebastian Ross** (the leader of **Konfederacja – Confederation**, UK branch) on YouTube broadcast a programme entitled '*Countrymen Companions reached the British Isles*'. His guests were **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) and **Marcin Osadowski**. During the programme both the guests and the host delivered antisemitic conspiracy theories, formulated antisemitic threats, and praised violence. The video began by showing part of a film in which Olszanski hits a Polish-British political activist and journalist Sławomir Wrobel in the face. Olszanski, proud of what he had done, added, '*People who were with him [Wrobel – ed.] immediately stood by his side. They had the upper hand. I quickly ascertained that it was a pile of Jews. Anyway, you can see it there [in the video – ed.], a sort of Koszalek-Opalek [a fictional bald-headed dwarf from a children's book, who was a chronicler of his dwarf kingdom – translator's note] similar to Korczak, [a pre-war Polish-Jewish author of children's books, physician and pedagogue, who ran an orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto and heroically perished together with his children – translator's note], then another one with a beard – all Jewry*'. The theme of the attacked journalist's alleged Jewish background was expanded on by Olszanski as follows: '*The problem we have is with Wrobels, but not with those that fly and shit on our cars, because these are useful [the word 'wrobel' in Polish, which is, in this case, the journalist's surname, means sparrow – translator's note], but with various Polish-speaking Wrobels, various Spiewaks, Wrobels and Bonis [names of Polish politicians and academics who are Jewish and/or are associated with the struggle against antisemitism – translator's note] – these carry out a pacification of our culture with an alien culture – Jewish culture. These are people who have a feeling of superiority and are fully convinced that we are supposed to serve them. There can be no way to accept any assimilation or any type of co-existence with them*'. Olszanski also warned Poles living abroad to be on the lookout for '*Jewish agents*': '*Within Polish expatriate circles there are, as always, Polish-speaking, mostly Jewish agents. It's enough to take one look at Wrobel – there can be no doubt that he is a Jew*'. In a later part of the programme, Olszanski also presented his own vision of a Polish nationalist state:

*'If in 1989 Poles had carried out a real takeover of Poland, the social and sociological accomplishments of the People's Poland should have been transformed into a national state, Polish and nationalistic. Without any drivel about multi-culturalism, because after 1945 we inherited a homogenous state without minorities [...]. I would call this system national-solidarity, so as not to call it national-socialist, because that has bad connotations'. He also called for creating Polish atomic bomb. Following, he claimed, 'Those Jewish f*ckers have been stealing [Polish property] for thirty years'. He also directed threats, 'I would beat those Jagiellonian Club [conservative republican association – ed.] guys with a hard stick so that they wouldn't manage to flee, I'd break their heads open. [...] The whole Jagiellonian idea is pumped by Jewry'. Olszanski also touched on a historical topic saying, 'In the year 1264, the Jews obtained from the [ruler of Poland – translator's note] Duke of Kalisz, through bribery, privileges which they named Kalisz Statutes. [...] It has some forty clauses, and they regulate our coexistence with the Jews who show themselves to be Jew-parasites. [...] There can be no together! These Jew-parasites have always acted as such towards our very bodies, our work, and our accomplishments'. In addition, Ross also made fun of a recent physical assault on the French President Macron and called him 'a tw*t', 'a stinking coward, [...] a creature of Rothschild-Soros'. This material was removed by YouTube for violating its hate speech policy.*

Olszanski and Osadowski are extreme-right activists known for vulgar antisemitic statements broadcast on YouTube. The channel which aired the film is hosted by Sebastian Ross, a British-based leader of the UK branch of the Polish party Konfederacja. In the European Parliamentary elections in 2019 he ran as a candidate for Konfederacja in the Warsaw constituency. On the YouTube channel he regularly denies the existence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effectiveness of vaccines.

CHORZOW. On 16 June, during the finals for the Cup of 100th anniversary of the Silesian Football Association between Ruch Chorzow and **Ruch Radzionkow**, visiting hooligans displayed on the fences a racist banner. It was the **Confederate** flag, used in XIX century by the racist South in the Civil War in the US, and nowadays by numerous racist groups.

WROCLAW. On 16 June, on Lotnicza Street five twelve-year-olds vandalised the Jewish cemetery. The young perpetrators destroyed over sixty tombstones and the roof of the water pumping station. Some of the matzevahs were broken after the police had already arrived at the scene. The case was submitted to the Family Court and the outcome has not been made public.

WARSAW. On 19 June, at the intersection of Marszalkowska and Swietokrzyska Streets members of **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (National Rebirth of Poland)**, an extreme-right political movement, disrupted the Equality (Pride) Parade organised in protest against discrimination towards LGBT people. Far-right activists set up huge banners displaying the slogan *'No pedalling'* (*'pedal'* is a Polish slur for a gay man) and pornographic images. They also distributed homophobic leaflets and played offensive and aggressive songs on a loudspeaker. One of them was *'Fight!'* by the neo-Nazi band **Konkwista 88**, which contains the following words in the chorus: *'Fight against everything that destroys our national bond'*. Another one was **The Right Wing's** *'Degenerates Parade'*, which begins with the slogan *'The Pedals are coming'*.

BYDGOSZCZ. On 24 June, on a city bus No. 57 near Kujawskiego roundabout a resident of the city attacked a student from Zimbabwe. The attacker headbutted the student in the face. When the bus

driver helped the victim, the attacker also directed his aggression towards him, spitting on the driver and hitting him with a rubbish bin that had been torn out of the ground near the bus stop. The police were notified of the incident. On 25 August, the attacker was arrested. He was charged with violating the bodily integrity of the victim in a hooligan-like manner. The court placed the man in pre-trial detention for two months.

RIMINI (ITALY). On 24 June, a French volleyball player, Earvin Ngapeth, posted on Instagram that during the League of Nations match Poland – France, which had taken place the previous day, the coach of the Polish team **Vital Heynen**, and player **Michal Kubiak**, behaved in a racist manner. According to Ngapeth, Heynen used the N-word towards black staff members who were taking care of the sanitary regime during the game. Furthermore, Kubiak allegedly said many insults about French players. The Fédération Internationale de Volleyball launched an investigation into this matter.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 26 June, on Cieszyńska Street three young residents of the city vandalised the historic Jewish cemetery. Two twelve-year-olds and a thirteen-year-old destroyed sixty-seven tombstones. *‘The burial ground looks like the aftermath of a catastrophe. It is a sad sight. It looks as if someone walked through it systematically smashing the tombstones, one by one. Many stones are broken, smashed and overturned’*, reported the cemetery Manager, Dariusz Gajny. He also added that no damage on this scale has been recorded since the Second World War. On 27 June, the police detained three teenagers. In the course of the investigation, it was confirmed that they were the perpetrators of the vandalism. The case has been transferred to the Bielsko-Biala Family Court.



LODZ. On 26 June, a homophobic march on Piotrkowska Street was organised by **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)**, an extreme-right political organisation). Its participants chanted, among other things: *‘No pedaling!’* (*‘pedal’* is a Polish slur for a gay man). Some wore sweatshirts with the racist symbol of the Celtic cross. They also tried to block the Equality March (Pride) that was taking place that day. On Sienkiewicza Street, these supporters of the extreme right were cordoned off by the police. They continued to shout, *‘Lodz free from perverts’*. In several parts of the city they committed physical and verbal attacks on participants in the Equality March. One group of attackers beat a man who was carrying a rainbow flag. They attacked him as he was leaving a grocery store by hitting him on the head and against a wall. He later reported, *‘It wasn’t that the attackers felt provoked by something. They had been standing there waiting. It was more like a hunt’*. The injured person was taken to hospital, where his wounds were stitched up. Another participant in the Equality March reported, *‘My two friends and I were followed from the Grand Theatre, which was the ultimate destination of our March. A group of six nationalists followed us on the tram. When we were ready to get off, they prepared to get off with us. We felt threatened, took out our mobile phones and started recording. They shouted «Hide that phone, you f*ggot!» towards us’*. The

aggressors continued to follow the group until the activists hid in a hotel on Kosynierow Gdyskich Street. They called the police to ask for assistance, but the police refused to intervene.

LUBASZ. On 26 June there took place a football tournament for the hooligans of **Lech Poznan**, with many racist incidents. The participants displayed a banner with a Celtic cross (which is supposed to



symbolise white supremacy). The players hung that banner on the fences and posed with it for pictures which were then published online.

POZNAN. On 26 June, a two-year-old boy suffering from spinal muscular atrophy was refused admission to the zoo in Krancowa Street. The security guard, referring to the regulations of the facility, did not agree that the child could visit the place using a special ride-on device, which makes it easier for him to move around. The boy's mother described the situation as follows: *'It turned out that you could not go inside with the ride-on, there was no way to park it and leave it outside safely, therefore we folded it and put it in a backpack [...]. The lady at the gate still refused to let us in, alleging I would take it out in the middle of the zoo and use it. The argument that Alex is sick and we carry this ride-on device with us because it makes him a little more independent didn't convince her either'*. Criticising the behaviour of the security guard and the failure to consider the special needs of a sick child, the mother also added, *'It should not be possible for a parent to say they have a child with disability and to then hear the reply «I don't care»'*. The Director of the zoo, Ewa Zgrabczynska, in a statement published after the incident, apologised to the parents and the boy.

WARSAW. On 26 June, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, a commentator of **TV Republika (Republic TV**, a far-right TV and YouTube channel), published a recording on his YouTube channel in which he negated the findings of historians about the anti-Jewish pogrom in Jedwabne (perpetrated by the Polish population of the town in presence of German occupying forces in 1941). He stated, *'It is a completely different story from what Gross has invented and what the whole world now repeats over and over again, shouting «Jedwabne!», shutting us up. This colossal lie about Jedwabne is alive and well'*. In addition, he repeatedly made offensive statements about Prof. Jan Tomasz Gross – a sociologist, political scientist, and historian who authored the books *'Neighbours. The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne'* and *'Fear. Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz'*. Ziemkiewicz called him *'a deliberate liar, a perjurer'*, and described his publication as *'a swindle'*, stating that he was *'hypocritical to the bone'*. At the end of the broadcast, Ziemkiewicz presented a conspiracy theory in which he linked alleged Jewish financial claims with the discussion about the Jedwabne pogrom: *'To get their hands on Polish money, loot us, rob and extort payments for the benefit of Jewish*

organisations, they have to convince the whole world that we were the perpetrators of this crime. This can be the only basis for these demands’.

WARSAW. On 26 June, the media in the capital city reported that ‘*unknown perpetrators*’ had painted antisemitic slogans and symbols on a warehouse building on a railway ramp in Falenica. They had placed a sign showing a swastika equalling the Star of David on the wall together with an inscription ‘*Jews brought this fate on Jews*’. In accusing the Jews of being responsible for the extermination of their own nation, the sign amounted to a denial of the truth about Nazi crimes. There was also the Celtic cross, a racist symbol, on the building. The ramp in Falenica was a site of Jewish martyrdom. On 20 August 1942, the Nazis had taken 6,500 Jews from the Falenica Ghetto and 1,500 from the Rembertow Ghetto to this site and then deported them to the extermination camp in Treblinka.

WARSAW. On 26 June, a march commemorating **Roman Dmowski**, a nationalist politician active in the 1920s and 1930s who promoted radical antisemitism, passed through the streets of the city. The demonstration was organised by **Piotr Rybak**, a man convicted of public incitement of hatred based on nationality (for burning an effigy of a Jew in Wroclaw in 2015, and for antisemitic speeches in the Auschwitz Museum in January 2019, on the anniversary of the liberation of the camp). The speakers during the march included former actor **Wojciech Olszanski**, now using the pseudonym **Aleksander Jablonowski**, who displayed a flag with the symbol of the Slavic swastika. He stated, ‘*For a long time the Jews did not want to agree to the reconstruction of the Royal Castle [...] Now we have to pay ad valorem taxes for it to the Jewish European Union*’. He also spoke about ‘*Balcerowicz, the Jew*’ [Prof. Leszek Balcerowicz is an economist and a statesman – translator’s note] and stated, ‘*Polish-speaking politicians of Jewish descent decide our future*’. In his speech, he demanded that ‘*Polish children learn Polish history and not a manipulated Jewish history*’ and chanted together with the audience, ‘*Death to the enemies of the motherland*’ (a slogan often used nowadays to encourage ideological aggression). The participants of the demonstration also chanted, ‘*We have Poland here, not Polin*’ [the word means Poland in Hebrew; according to the conspiracy theory, Polin is Poland appropriated by Jews – translator’s note], and, ‘*This is Poland, not Israel*’, while at the US Embassy one of the organisers shouted through a loudspeaker: ‘*Yankees go home*’ and made homophobic comments about the rainbow flag above the embassy building.

KRAKOW. On 27 June, on a beach by the Bagry Lagoon one of the city residents hurled racist abuse at four men from Congo and Rwanda. He demanded that they get out of the water because ‘*this was not a place for them*’, and threatened that if they did not, he would ‘*call up his friends*’ to beat them up. Witnesses called the municipal wardens who detained the aggressive man and handed him over to the police. He was charged with publicly insulting a group of people based on their race.

LODZ. On 28 June, Paulina Matysiak, a Lewica (Left party) Member of Parliament, posted information on her Twitter profile about a homophobic sticker that had appeared at one of the bus stops in the city. It bore the slogan ‘*Stop Sexual Deviants*’ and contained pornographic imagery. The sticker was placed inside a locked cabinet owned by the Municipal Transport Company.

WARSAW. On 28 June, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, a commentator of **TV Republika (Republic TV)**, a far-right TV and YouTube channel, posted a tweet with antisemitic content: *‘Germans produced soap from the Shoah victims, modern Jews learned to produce gold from them. From a legal perspective, what the «Holocaust Industry» is doing is a so-called complicity after the fact’*. This comment perpetuates the conspiracy theory that Jews cynically exploit the memory of the Holocaust and overstate the number of victims, in order to gain material benefits.

A lot of words of support for him and his antisemitic comments were posted under Ziemkiewicz’s Tweet (his profile has over 200,000 followers): *‘And now this statement should appear everywhere in English. Clear and true message’*, *‘Well said Mr editor’*, *‘The lesser the difference that the soap was also there after the fact’*, and *‘Scavengers. Well, the proverbial greed didn’t come from nowhere’*.

WRZESNIA. On 29 June, in front of the entrance to the block of flats on Bronislawa Smidowicz Street *‘unknown perpetrators’* painted the slogan *‘Send Jews to the gas’*, on the pavement. It was removed by the Councillor Damian Staniszewski.

WARSAW. On 30 June, members of far-right group **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)** organised an antisemitic event near the Israeli Embassy. They dumped a pile of rubble in front of the building and placed a sign on it with the words *‘Here is your property’*. They explained their actions on Facebook as follows: *‘To make it absolutely clear: they don’t deserve anything, not even a brick. But we decided to face their demands and give them all they can legitimately claim’*. The event was organised following the amendments to the Code of Administrative Procedure relating to restitution actions introduced by the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament) on 24 June. The issue of the so-called ‘Jewish claims’ is used by far-right activists as a pretext to promote antisemitic conspiracy theories. The incident, which took place at the Israeli Embassy, was condemned by the Jewish Community of Warsaw.

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WROCLAW. At the beginning of July, on Borowska Street *‘unknown perpetrators’* placed a large sign on a billboard containing the slogan *‘Stop LGBT paedophiles’*. Local activists have since removed the homophobic slogan.

WARSAW. On 1 July, in a broadcast on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** YouTube channel, a visual artist and photographer **Jacek Schmidt** associated LGBT activists with paedophiles: *‘LGBT activists are leaders of deviancy towards young children, [and] abuse of minors; they simply advocate this type of approach’*. He also called those who stand in solidarity with minorities a *‘sodomite agenda’*. The broadcast host **Jan Bodakowski** (a participant of extreme right-wing demonstrations for many years, and a candidate of the far right **Konfederacja – Confederation** party in the 2019 parliamentary elections; he was not elected) equated LGBT rainbow flag with swastika: *‘Just like during the German occupation red rags with broken cross were put everywhere, the flags glorifying unhealthy sexual behaviour are being hanged everywhere’*.

POLAND. On 2 July, far-right columnist **Rafal Otoka-Frackiewicz**, former Editor-in-Chief of the magazine *'Uwazam Rze Historia'* (a radical weekly describing itself as a conservative-liberal voice in the public debate) and candidate for the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament) in 2015 on behalf of **Kukiz'15**, a far-right populist party, broadcast a recording on his YouTube channel in which he made antisemitic statements. Perpetuating the conspiracy theory about alleged Jewish claims he stated, *'Jews are still furious with Poland for introducing regulations theoretically preventing them from obtaining by deception the property of people who had nothing to do with Israel'*. He also said, *'Nobody likes Jews anywhere and that makes one think'*.

Otoka-Frackiewicz went on to make a number of racist claims. He argued, *'The value of our Western culture is much higher [...] than the value of cultures that cannot, have no ability to live as we do'*, and then, with extreme contempt, he insulted the victims of slavery in the United States, *'American N*groes are those [...] who had been captured and deported, because they were failures in Africa, this was a low intellectual material and it has not improved to this day'*. He then added, *'Those who [...] had been deported to the US do not have the intellectual capacity to understand the superiority of different cultures over other cultures that are lower'* and, *'Should you meet any racists, [...] tell them to distinguish normal, healthy N*groes from those Blacks in the US who have intellectual problems and to leave our normal Blacks alone, because there are no morons in Europe like those in the USA'*.

At the end of the recording, Otoka-Frackiewicz mocked the winner of a beauty contest in Nevada, an American of Filipino origin, Kataluna Enriquez, a transgender person. He stated, *'The competition for the most beautiful woman in a given state was won by – watch out – a tr*nny... Now I am going to say that I have nothing against this because this selection shows better than anything else that guys are the best, since they win with women even in beauty contests'*.

WARSAW. On 2 July, **Robert Bakiewicz**, leader of the **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci (March of Independence Association)** and editor in-chief of the **Media Narodowe (National Media)**, in a YouTube video publicly expressed his support for two men sentenced by District Court in Bialystok on 30 June for instigating national hatred. They had broken the law in 2016 during a march of the **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)** where they shouted an antisemitic slogan: *'Zionists will hang on trees instead of leaves'*. **Jaroslav R.** was sentenced to one year of prison, and **Krzysztof S.** was sentenced to six months of prison suspended for two years. In 2016, Bakiewicz was one of the leaders of the Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny.

During the broadcast, Bakiewicz said he did not see anything harmful in the slogan about hanging the *'Zionists'* because: *'Zionism, like communism, is a political doctrine'* and was declared by the UN as *'racist, fascist, xenophobic and totalitarian'*. He probably referred to the 1975 resolution no. 3379 of the UN General Assembly (contrary to Bakiewicz's statement, it said nothing about fascism or totalitarianism). The resolution was revoked in 1991 but Bakiewicz did not mention this fact. Zionism was an idea of Jewish statehood, and antisemites called the Jews *'Zionists'* on many occasions. In a typically antisemitic statement, Bakiewicz equated Jews with Nazis: *'it is as if we shouted in the streets that we oppose Hitler's Nazism'*.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On the night of 2/3 July, the Jewish cemetery in Cieszynska Street was vandalised again. One of the town residents hung a bag on the gate of the cemetery containing faeces, along

with a letter that read, *‘Information for all Jews. Start sh*tting only in your own beds and dig out your dead, so that you have nothing to visit or to miss, and what’s underneath is just a sample of what you have under your skullcaps’* [the note contained spelling mistakes – translator’s note]. The police detained a 50-year-old man in connection with the incident. The man was charged with publicly insulting a section of the population based of their nationality and insulting a place designated for religious practices.

GONIADZ. On 3 July, antisemitic content was promoted during a festival organised by deniers of the COVID-19 epidemic, including **Justyna Socha’s Stop NOP Association**, which is striving to abolish compulsory vaccinations for children against infectious diseases. During the performance, a Bialystok band **Rzeczpospolita Polska Oi! (RP Oi!)** performed a cover of a song by the neo-Nazi band **Honor** entitled ‘Urodzony Białym’ (‘Born white’). The lyrics include: *‘By the power of your will, pull the Hebrew root out of this land! / For an independent Aryan voice to sound forever / Let the pure race always light your home / The pride of your white children will set this land free again!’* The song’s chorus is: *‘White heritage, the voice of the Aryan race / Whose future depends on you today / [...] defend your race!’* The leader of RP Oi! is **Adam Czeczetkowicz**, a former member of **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)**, a far-right organisation), known for his antisemitic and racist speeches. In 2015, he was sentenced to one and a half-year restriction of freedom for publicly insulting a Polish-Indian couple from Bialystok. The drummer of the band is a local activist **Rafał Kosno**, who ran for the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament) in 2019 as a representative of the Skuteczni party of Piotr ‘Liroy’ Marzec.

POLAND. On 5 July, **Goral Info**, a portal which shares local news about the southern Poland regions of Podhale, Orawa, Spisz, and Pieniny, posted an article on Facebook about the closure of selected border crossings between Poland and Slovakia due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The article stated that concrete posts had been placed on the roads as additional barriers. In the comments section underneath the article, Polish internet users posted many xenophobic comments about the Slovaks. Examples include: *‘Damned kokoty set up barricades’* (‘kokot’ is a vulgar Slovak term for male genitalia), *‘Kokoty, what normal person wants to see these pepiks’* (in Polish ‘*pepiki*’ is a derogatory name for Czech people), *‘The Slovaks, formerly the Czechoslovakians, have always sided with the Germans and continue to do so’*, and *‘F*cking Slovaks, worse than the Bolsheviks’* (original spelling).

WARSAW. On 5 July, **Monika Jaruzelska** (Warsaw Councillor and lecturer at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities) broadcast on her YouTube channel a programme where she spoke with far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation party)** Member of Parliament **Krzysztof Bosak** (he was running for president in 2020) and during which they both mocked the anti-fascist activity of the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association. Jaruzelska addressed her interlocutor as follows: *‘I already have this brown shirt. Are you also in the «Brown Book»?’* and Bosak replied, *‘It is not something I follow [...]. But their substantive value is non-existent’*. Later in the programme, the politician made an offensive statement about the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich. When Jaruzelska read an excerpt from an interview with him about lost Jewish properties, Bosak interjected, *‘And what is this Rabbi’s name?’* Repeating an allegedly unknown name, he declared, *‘This is a Chief Rabbi of Poland sent to us from America, sent to instruct us on how to think about matters of our own history.’*

[...] *I treat it as a voice from abroad*'. Rabbi Schudrich was born in New York to a family of Polish Jews and has been living in Poland for over thirty years. He became the Chief Rabbi in 2004.

NOWY DWOR MAZOWIECKI. On 8 July, at the airport of Modlin a border guard acted insultingly towards a married couple with four children. The family are Polish citizens, originally from Palestine. *'The lady treated my children and wife very badly – she started screaming at them for no reason or maybe because my wife was wearing a headscarf. She was discriminating against us'*, reported the man whose family were affected. He also added, *'When I approached the checkpoint with my family and handed over six Polish passports for inspection, [the officer – ed.] told me to come alone and started screaming at my wife and children'*. When the man explained that his relatives might need assistance with translation during passport control and that he would also like to stand at the counter, the guard replied, *'I think your wife and children can understand their names'* and told him to leave. The man informed the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association about this situation. He has been living in Poland for many years, and he defended his PhD in chemical engineering at the Lodz University of Technology.

JEDWABNE. On 10 July, on the anniversary of the pogrom committed against Jews by their Polish neighbours in 1941, members of extreme-right groups organised an antisemitic protest on the site where this crime is commemorated. Among the participants were **Robert Bakiewicz**, head of **Stowarzyszenie Roty Marszu Niepodleglosci (Rota Independence March Association)** [*'rota'* is an archaic word for a small military unit – translator's note], **Bartłomiej Kurzeja** from the so-called **Telewizja Narodowa (National TV, an online TV channel)** and **Piotr Rybak**. Both Kurzeja and Rybak have been previously convicted for public incitement of hatred based on nationality. The demonstrators made threats against people who came to commemorate the murdered Jews. One of the nationalists shouted to an old man, *'In a moment I will dance with you, despite your age'*, *'Rags'*, and *'If my grandfather had known what race you were, he wouldn't have saved you'*. In turn, Kurzeja said that the flag of Israel was a *'clown rag'*. He also mocked Fr. Wojciech Lemanski, who was there, calling him a *'rabbi'* and a *'fake'*. The demonstrators displayed a flag containing a Slavic swastika, as well as banners with the words *'Gross, apologise for Jedwabne'* and *'I'm not sorry for Jedwabne'* [Jan Tomasz Gross is a sociologist, political scientist, and historian who authored the books *'Neighbours. The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne'* and *'Fear. Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz'*. In an essay published in 2015 in the German newspaper *'Die Welt'*, Gross wrote that during World War II *'Poles killed more Jews than Germans'* – translator's note]. Some also wore t-shirts with this slogan, and others – badges with the slogan *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'*, which is used nowadays to incite ideological aggression. On the wall surrounding the place where the murders had taken place the demonstrators put up posters with the words *'We remember Jewish crimes during the Holocaust in World War II'*. Near the monument there was also a campervan bearing the slogan *'This is Poland, not Polin'* [Polin in Hebrew means Poland. In this antisemitic context, *'Polin'* should be understood as a Jewish state, created after taking over of Poland].

WARSAW. On 10 July, on the 80th anniversary of the anti-Jewish pogrom in Jedwabne (perpetrated by the Polish population of the town in presence of German occupying forces in 1941), **Polish Radio**

24 (state-owned news station) broadcast a programme featuring three former anti-communist opposition activists **Andrzej Michalowski**, **Andrzej Rozplochowski** and **Ryszard Majdzik**, who all made antisemitic claims. The discussion started with Rozplochowski stating, *'The international pressure on Poland comes primarily from the anti-Polonism of chauvinist Jewish circles around the world, but also from liberal-left-wing international forces'*. His words were supported by Michalowski, who made the following bizarre, racist comment: *'The way these people from Western Europe, especially the Dutch, Germans and French, perceive us Poles, are identical to the attitudes of the owners of N*groes in the state of Alabama in 1864. Suddenly the N*groes wanted the same standards of living that their owners had but the owners said, «How can that be?» Poles are cheap labour!»'*

He also added, *'We will not be outmanoeuvred by the Judeo-communism [aka Judeo-Bolshevism, antisemitic stereotype of Jews as communist traitors – translator's note], the American lobby, or by German pretensions of superiority'* and, *'Targowica [a word often used in the Polish language as a synonym of treason; historically the name refers to a confederation established in 1791 in opposition to Poland's first Constitution – translator's note] is made up of experienced operators who have had their trough taken away from them, and though they have Polish passports and are speak-Polishy [sic!], their origins, their families and their genes are not Polish at all. This is Targowica, the likes of Tusk, Komorowski and a lot of people who have controlled the country for thirty years, like Geremek and Mazowiecki, this is Targowica'* [all names mentioned are of prominent Polish liberal politicians of the last decades – translator's note]. At the end of the programme Michalowski also drew upon an antisemitic conspiracy theory, *'There is a lobby that is constantly exerting pressure on the government. [...] Currently, for example, the Jewish lobby, which in the past had messed up the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN). Now they are trying to wreak havoc with the laws on the restitution of heirless Jewish property again'*. Ryszard Majdzik also made accusations during the programme, *'Who rebuilt Warsaw? [...] Did Jews or Americans come here to rebuild our city? [...] They should still pay for this damage because they caused it for us'*. **Antoni Opalinski** who hosted the programme broadcast by a public radio station did not react to the antisemitic statements made by his interlocutors.

In connection with this programme, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association submitted a complaint to the Media Ethics Council. In their response, dated 16 August 2021, the Council acknowledged the validity of the allegations and stated, *'The broadcast broke the rules set out in the Media Ethics Charter. [...] The principles of truth, respect, and tolerance were violated, and the ideas expressed by the participants amounted to a view that the only solution would be the introduction of a «strong-arm» policy in Poland. The principle that the priority is to benefit the audience who finance public radio was breached. In fact, the radio cheated its audience by broadcasting a programme questioning the social order introduced in 1989, the goal of the Solidarity movement's struggle'*. However, no information as to whether the participants of the broadcast would face consequences has been disclosed.

The programme broadcast on Polish Radio 24 was condemned by Prof. Michal Bilewicz, who recalled, *'Jozef Sigalin directed the reconstruction of Warsaw. Without him, we would not have the Royal Castle, MDM [Marszalkowska Housing District – translator's note] or Lazienkowska Route'*

(Sigalin was the first chief architect of Warsaw after World War II, he came from a family of Jewish manufacturers in Warsaw). Prof. Magdalena Gawin, the Deputy Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sport, as well as the General Conservator of Historical Monuments said, *'Sigalin did not want to rebuild the historic center of Warsaw. Please do not take away the merits of Zachwatowicz [Jan; Polish architect, architectural historian, and restorer; from January 1945 he co-directed the Warsaw Reconstruction Office – translator's note] and the inhabitants of Warsaw'*. The Deputy Minister did not make any comment on the antisemitic programme broadcast on public radio.

WARSAW. On 11 July, on a bus number 116 to Zoliborz two men attacked a Thai woman and her Swedish husband. The attackers pushed the woman and called her names including *'Ch*nk'*, *'Yellow b*tch'*, and *'Yellow... wh*re'*. At the Plac Inwalidow stop, the thugs did not let her get off the bus, pulled her by the hair and yanked her. They punched her husband in the face, as well as another passenger who stood up for the couple. The bus driver called the police and... drove off. The woman was taken to Bielanski Hospital. Her husband (born in Poland) reported in a press statement, *'After the attack, my wife felt bad. She was bruised. We spent nine hours there [in the hospital – translator's note]. We went to the police on Tuesday. It was then that I found out the perpetrators had been released, that they had not been arrested. Even the policemen who questioned us were surprised by this'*. The injured couple reported the attack to both the Swedish and Thai embassies.

WARSZAWA. On 11 July on the finals of the Euro Cup, Constitutional Tribunal Judge **Krystyna Pawłowicz** published the following tweet: *'And now for the apolitical UEFA... The ball for the finals of EURO 2020 [sic!] is to be brought to the field with a minicar smeared with a Satanist rainbow... It proves that there are indeed «believers» in the UEFA'*. In this manner, Pawłowicz mocked the support lent by the UEFA for the LGBT community. Her tweet was followed by many other homophobic and racist comments, for example: *'Crazy, totalitarian, rainbow utopia'*, *'Watch them morons also take a knee, God knows what for'*, *'Black racists take a knee before their leftist master'* and *'And probably the English will take a knee. Gross'* (the English national team took a knee before matches to show support for Black Lives Matter).

WARSAW. On 12 July, one day after the Euro Final between England and Italy, **Mirosław Szumilo**, a professor at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) in Lublin, published the following comment on Facebook: *'The demise of the English was caused by political correctness. As many as three black players were chosen to take penalties, none of whom was successful. I know that straight away FB will consider me racist, but it was what it was'*. After a few hours Szumilo edited the post and added the following: *'The coach could have chosen from more experienced and better players. Why did he choose these three specifically? I suspect that racial quota was enforced'*. In the evening of the same day he deleted the comment and posted another one, where he ridiculed the international Black Lives Matter movement: *'All this taking the knee before matches is utter nonsense'*. Szumilo is also an employee of the Institute of National Remembrance. As an expert, he had reviewed a history handbook for the Ministry of Education and Science. His post has been condemned by the UMCS authorities: *'We consider the internet post of UMCS Professor Mirosław*

Szumilo unacceptable and having a negative impact on the reputation of the University. In fact, tolerance and respect for other nations and cultures are indisputable, traditional academic values’.

GRUDZIADZ. On 13 July, during the top flight speedway match **GKM Grudziadz** - Apator Torun, local hooligans displayed a banner which called for violence against ‘ideological enemies’. It depicts a symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with a slogan often used by neo-fascists, ‘*Good night left side*’.

WADOWICE. In mid-July, on Sienkiewicza Street next to Maria Konopnicka Primary School No. 2 posters were displayed with the intention of inciting anti-Ukrainian sentiment. The posters contained the slogan ‘*Ukrainian genocide on the Polish nation 1939-1947*’ and a photo of a child who was claimed to have been murdered by the ‘*Ukrainian bandits*’. The poster also included information about the website and bank account details of **Fundacja Wolyn Pamietamy (Volhynia Remembered Foundation)**, a far-right organization). Children from Ukraine also study at the school where the posters were displayed. The same posters and billboards were also placed by the Foundation in many other locations, including Krzywzowice (Opolskie Voivodeship, 5 October 2021), Abramow commune (Lubelskie Voivodeship), Brzeg (next to national road No. 36) and Chojnice on Tucholska Street (on 20 September 2021).

WARSAW. On 13 July, the YouTube channel **Media Narodowe (National Media)** broadcasted a street poll in which both the host **Jan Bodakowski** and his interlocutors spouted antisemitic conspiracy theories. The manipulative questions concerned alleged Jewish claims against Poland. One of the poll’s participants stated: ‘*During World War II, American Jews were counting the cash, how much money could be made per killed, gassed or burned Jew. They were just making money off these victims*’. Another man replied positively, when asked by Bodakowski if ‘*accusations under the title of Jedwabne or the Kielce pogrom can be considered as a propaganda made to create a good atmosphere in the global political scene?*’ Another interlocutor presented a conspiracy theory that was insulting to the victims of the Holocaust: ‘*I heard another version, simply that the Jews who were eradicated here, mainly the Jews from the East, all the poor once, were actually the so-called fertiliser for the creation of the state of Israel*’. Furthermore, one of the men in the interview with Bodakowski stated: ‘*The history has shown that if [the Jews] see any opportunity to make money, to exploit another nation, they become ruthless*’.

WARSAW. On 16 July, Onet (a popular news portal) published an article about racist harassment and violence experienced by a nine-year-old pupil of a school in Saska Kepa. The victim who is a son of a Chinese woman and Polish man began attending the school in January 2019. His father reported, ‘*It started with vulgar taunts and insults. Over time, they became more and more insistent and offensive. «You Chinese counterfeit!», then also «You Chinese virus!»*’ The boy was also pushed and poked by his classmates. In October 2019, the boy’s parents notified the school management about the situation, but according to them, it did not resolve the issue and the harassment continued over the following months. On 20 May 2021, the aggression escalated. ‘*My son was hit in the back with a rock by one of the pupils. [...] Other students joined in and also attacked him. One of them hit him so hard that he broke my son’s arm. Then the aggressor removed the boy’s trousers, humiliating him*

in front of the other children’, said the victim’s father. On 16 June 2021, the boy’s parents notified the police of these incidents. In an interview with Onet, the school management denied the report presented by the boy’s parents and stated that there had been no racist harassment committed against him. It was also reported that the school had filed a defamation notification against the boy’s parents.

WARSAW. On 17 July, a video was posted on the official Twitter account of **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party) starring a model, **Samuela Gorska**, who expressed her support for this far-right party. Gorska stated, *‘I want neither Jewry nor LGBT, I don’t want many things that are currently there. I have the impression that only Konfederacja provides such normality’*. Her words were condemned by many public figures, including those associated with the fashion industry. Several companies have ceased their cooperation with her. Designer Marek Sieradzky wrote on the internet, *‘It’s damn hard and a pity to hear that someone does not want you in the country where you live. On my profile, I no longer have any photos with the person whose words hurt me a lot. I am so sorry that in the 21st century, in the middle of Europe, such things are happening’*.

Gorska’s statement was endorsed by far-right politicians. The video was shared on Twitter by, among others, two Konfederacja Members of Parliament **Jakub Kulesza** and **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** (well-known extremist and chauvinist) who added an antisemitic commentary to it. Korwin-Mikke wrote, *‘Sure, you have to fight hard against the Judeo-communism [aka Judeo-Bolshevism, antisemitic stereotype of Jews as communist traitors – translator’s note] – because Jews are generally very intelligent people, so the Judeo-communists are the most dangerous type of communists!’* In turn, **Mateusz Marzoch** from **Młodzież Wszechpolska** (**All-Polish Youth**, a far-right organisation) and the Director of the parliamentary office of MPs **Robert Winnicki** and **Krzysztof Bosak**, commented on Gorska’s words, *‘What she said was definitely right. We don’t want Jewry lying in wait for our money for World War II, and we don’t want LGBT forcing us to accept their immorality and abnormality’*.



ZABRZE. On 17 July during the sparring match of Gornik Zabrze – **Banik Ostrava**, some Czech hooligans wore racist T-shirts. It depicted a characteristic image of a white fist (used as a symbol of the so-called ‘white power’) and the words ‘White Banik Matters’, a mockery of Black Lives Matter.

GLOGOW. On 18 July, a march of COVID-19 deniers and anti-vaccine protesters, among whom there were also many football hooligan supporters of **Chrobry Glogow**, passed through the streets of the city, shouting antisemitic slogans. Some also wore T-shirts with the racist symbol of the Celtic cross. One of the organisers of the demonstration called through a megaphone, *‘We know who is behind this whole plandemic [a word play: plan + COVID-19 pandemic – translator’s note] and who rules the world!’*, and then added a question, *‘Do you know who hates Poles?’* to which someone from the crowd replied, *‘Jews!’* The same man chanted a slogan that the other participants of the march picked up: *‘Today every Pole can see, the Jews are behind the plandemic’*. He also announced, *‘They will come for our houses’*. The police did not intervene.

POZNAN. On 20 July, members of the far-right organisation **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)** hung a banner with the slogan ‘*UAM for Poles*’ on the fence surrounding the University of Adam Mickiewicz (UAM). A photo of the xenophobic banner was posted on Facebook on the same day, along with a false statement about the admission process: ‘*The number of foreigners admitted compared to Polish students is extremely high, which limits the possibilities for our compatriots to study. High school graduates [...] were deprived of places by foreigners taking different leaving exams, which require different levels of knowledge. [...] Mass immigration to Poland, especially from beyond the eastern border, has been a serious problem in recent years*’. This incident was condemned by the university Rector, Prof. Bogumila Kaniewska, who said, ‘*The noble university tradition assumes equality in access to knowledge, openness, and respect for diversity – I will maintain it and ensure that there are no cases of exclusion at UAM. [...] our university is, and will be, a university for everyone*’.

In connection with the incident that took place at UAM, the Minister of Education and Science **Przemysław Czarnek** also commented on the recruitment process. On 23 July, on **Polskie Radio 24** (state-owned news station) when asked, ‘*Is it more profitable for universities to accept Poles or foreigners when it comes to financing them?*’ he replied, ‘*Polish universities are for Polish students, this is completely obvious. Polish universities are for Poland, Polish science is for Poland because it is financed by Poles*’. He also added, ‘*There was some exaggeration when it comes to internationalisation [of the universities – ed.] and we are changing this*’.

WARSAW. On 21 July, in the course of a programme aired by the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, **Przemysław Holocher**, the boss of an extreme right-wing foundation called **Magna Polonia** and former leader of the **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)**, appeared wearing a shirt which openly affirmed the criminal practices of the Chilean regime led by general **Augusto Pinochet**. It contained the face of the dictator, a drawing depicting people thrown out of an airborne helicopter, as well as the slogan: ‘*Make communists afraid of rotary aircraft again. Physical removal since 1973*’. Pinochet assumed power in Chile in 1973 by way of a military takeover and ruled for the next 17 years. He applied unusually brutal repression and persecution of political adversaries, such as pushing living oppositionists out of a helicopter into the Pacific Ocean. Under Pinochet’s rule, at least 3 thousand Chileans were murdered. In the course of the programme, Holocher also referred to the words uttered by the fashion model **Samuela Gorska** who in July 2021 expressed her support for the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party and stated: ‘*I do not want Jewishness, I do not want LGBT, I do not want many things which are present here. I have a feeling that only the Confederation party can assure this normality*’. The boss of the Magna Polonia foundation stated: ‘*Everyone has the right to such views, and everyone has the right to simply have enough of the ubiquitous propaganda by sodomitic or Jewish communities*’. The programme was hosted by **Brunon Rozycki** who in the course of the conversation called Belarusian and Ukrainian students of Polish universities ‘*invaders*’ after which he corrected himself, using a different noun which could be translated as ‘*uninvited guests*’.

NOWA SOL. On 23 July, the Nowa Sol-Miasto Commune published a request for quotation regarding the design and production of a mural on the wall of a tenement house at Witosa Street,

located in the vicinity of the Janusz Korczak Special Educational Center (Korczak was an outstanding educator and precursor of the fight for children's rights; he came from an assimilated Jewish family, probably died in 1942 in the Treblinka extermination camp). This mural was to be devoted to the 'Korczak theme', but the offer included a discriminatory entry: *'What we would like to avoid when developing the concept of the mural [...] - multicultural children - we want to show children identifying with our city, our backyard, school'*. In an interview with *'Tygodnik Regionalny'* (local weekly newspaper), **Beata Kulczycka**, Head of the Programming and Promotion Department at the Municipal Office in Nowa Sol, informed that the officials rejected one of the preliminary mural designs because... *'multicultural children were emphasised too much'*. Another employee of the same department **Tadeusz Szechowski** said in turn that the mural should feature the children of Nowa Sol, and not *'some United Nations children; for example, children of different races holding hands, and so on'*. The opinion of the Municipal Office was criticised by the public. Bogdan Wildangier-Siwak, President of the local Roma Association, said in a press statement, *'You mean that our children cannot be on the mural?'* He added that he and his wife run a common room for children: *'For Polish, Roma, and other children. Children of Jewish origin also play in our yards, I often see a little African American, there are little ones from Ukraine, England, Ireland, Vietnam, so I don't know who and why decided which children are suitable for a city mural and which ones should not be there'*. In the end, the mural did not include characters which, in the spirit of Janusz Korczak's legacy, would teach respect for different cultures.

POLAND. On 23 July, mayors of several cities received antisemitic messages with death threats. An anonymous sender directed the following e-mail to the Mayor of Bialystok Tadeusz Truskolaski: *'Truskolaski, you will die, you JEW... I will stab you like Adamowicz [Mayor of Gdansk who was murdered in public in 2019 - translator's note]... I will cut your stupid head off... You will not live long. Say goodbye to your family. I will kill you in a few days. I have nothing to lose anyway. You will die, you wh*re, for what you did to me'* (the sender's address was: 'zabic.zydow.wbialymstoku@onet.pl', which means: 'kill the Jews in Bialystok'). The same message was received by: the Mayor of Bydgoszcz Rafal Bruski (sent from the address: 'zabic.zyda.w.bydgoszczy@onet.pl', which means: 'kill the Jew in Bydgoszcz'), the Mayor of Olsztyn Piotr Grzymowicz (from the address: 'wymordujemy.zydow.z.olsztyna@onet.pl', which means: 'we will kill all Jews in Olsztyn'), the Mayor of Radom Radoslaw Witkowski (from the address: 'radomski.morderca.zydow@onet.pl', which means: 'killer of the Jews in Radom'), the Mayor of Wroclaw Jacek Sutryk (from the address: 'smierc.zydom.wbreslau@onet.pl', which means: death to the Jews in Wroclaw), the Mayor of Gdansk Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, the Mayor of Poznan Jacek Jaskowiak, the Mayor of Warsaw Rafal Trzaskowski, and the Mayor of Sopot Jacek Karnowski.

- Moreover, on 3 August, the Mayor of Inowroclaw Ryszard Brejza, received an antisemitic message with death threats. They were directed both at him and at his son Krzysztof Brejza, a Platforma Obywatelska (Civic Platform, the main liberal, opposition party) senator. The e-mail was sent from the address 'morderca.zydow.z.platformy@onet.pl' (which means: 'killer of the Civic Platform Jews') and its content was as follows: *'Old Brejza, I will murder you POjebie [play on words - 'pojeb' means 'f*cker' - translator's note]. You will end up miserably in a puddle of blood [...]. I will also murder the young Brejza. You will have your son's blood on your hands'*. The sender signed as

follows: *'Murderer of the Platform JEWS, Cyber W. [here was the full surname of the murderer of the Mayor of Gdansk Pawel Adamowicz]'*.

- Also on 3 August, death threats were sent to the Mayor of Ciechanow Krzysztof Kosinski. The anonymous message read: *'In the city they say your end is near, and you know what? It is me who will have this honour and kill you, I will remove a parasite like you from the face of the earth'*.

- On 4 August, death threats were received by the Mayor of Kolobrzeg Anna Mieczkowska. On her Facebook profile she wrote, *'There is absolutely no place for hate speech and any punishable threats. Together, we should eliminate such behaviour from our lives'*.

- On 5 August, the Mayor of Ostrow Wielkopolski Beata Klimek received antisemitic threats. On Facebook she wrote, *'Someone is threatening to kill me in a very brutal, evil way. An email full of violence was sent to the e-mail address of the Municipal Office of Ostrow Wielkopolski in which they tried to intimidate me. [...] I will not consent to hatred and threats against anyone'*.

BYDGOSZCZ. On 24 July, antisemitic incidents took place during a march to deny the COVID-19 epidemic, which was organised by the extreme right-wing group **Bydgoskie Kamracto Rodakow (Bydgoszcz Compatriot Companionship)**. The participants of the demonstration chanted, *'This is Poland, not Polin'* [the word means Poland in Hebrew; for the extreme right it has become synonymous with the alleged rule of the Jews over Poland – translator's note], and *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'* (a slogan encouraging ideological aggression). A speech was delivered by **Wojciech Olszanski** aka **Aleksander Jablonowski** (Olszanski/Jablonowski is a former actor, known for promoting antisemitic and homophobic content on YouTube). Olszanski said, *'An old lady with eminently Jewish features came up to me in the street and said, «Mr Wojciech, who is the enemy of the motherland?» to which I asked, «Your motherland or my motherland?» And guess what? She got stuck [...], this Polish-speaking intellectual with a sense of superiority over all non-kosher Poles'*. He also stated, *'Our goal is [winning in] the local elections and taking power into our hands so that we will not be ruled by scabs, by Polish-speaking mongrels using our money!'* He continued shouting, *'Go to vote in the local elections! And take this power otherwise the Jews will take it from us! On this land there is no place for two nations! Poland for Poles!'* This final slogan was also chanted by the crowd. Another participant of the demonstration expressed the following conspiracy theories in his speech: *'None of the presidents after 1989 were Poles, but actors of Jewish descent. They are neither of our blood nor our religion. We had been sold to America by the Jews who previously ruled over Poland from Russia. I would like you to understand that there is no such thing as a Polish government'*, and *'The World War II was made only to murder the Slavs and to create the State of Israel. And Mr. **Hitler**, who allegedly committed suicide in 1945, is the father of Israel and was minted on Israel's first coins as its creator'*. Members of Bydgoskie Kamracto Rodakow wore stylised military uniforms with symbols of the Slavic swastika, images of an eagle resembling the emblem of the Third Reich, and badges containing the slogan *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'*.

LEGNICA. On 24 July and the following days, the Franciscans from the St. John the Baptist Parish called for signing the petition under the 'Stop LGBT' bill written up by **Kaja Godek's Zycie i Rodzina (Life and Family) Foundation** (Godek was a **Konfederacja – Confederation** party candidate in European Parliament elections in 2019). This statement appeared on the Parish's website and

Facebook: *'After each mass we are collecting signatures under the «Stop LGBT» bill initiated by citizens which aims at protecting the public sphere from LGBT propaganda, desecration, and legalisation of homosexual relationships'*. This petition calls for, among other things, a ban on organising gatherings with a purpose of protesting against discrimination towards LGBT people (it *de facto* bans Equality Marches/Pride Parades). According to 'The Atlas of Hate' (report prepared by LGBT activists), in 2020 over 300 parishes were gathering signatures under Kaja Godek's project (in November 2020 the proposal was rejected by the Sejm, lower house of Polish Parliament, based on formal grounds, but not because of its homophobic sentiment). On 9 August 2021 the 'Stop LGBT' petition was filed in the Sejm once again.

WROCLAW. On 30 July, Dmytro Nikiforenko, a 25-year-old Ukrainian citizen, died during a police intervention in Sokolnicza Street in a sobering centre. According to press reports, he was being strangled by nine people at the same time, his head was pressed against the floor with a knee, he was hit with a fist and a truncheon, while his movements were restrained. These acts were perpetrated by policemen, employees of the centre, a member of the management team, and a medical doctor from the centre. Their motives were probably related to the victim's nationality. Chief Commissioner Kamil Rynkiewicz from the Provincial Police Headquarters in Wroclaw confirmed in a media statement that the issue of *'racial prejudice'* was also being investigated.

The Ukrainian was taken by bus to the Wroclaw Intoxicated Persons Help Centre (WrOPON). The officers maintained that Nikiforenko was acting aggressively and therefore they had to use *'direct coercive measures'* against him: gas, handcuffs, and incapacitation. However, the CCTV footage from the bus cameras did not confirm this. In addition, the policemen, immediately after the Ukrainian was arrested, turned off the cameras attached to their uniforms. Three officers of the Prevention Department of the Municipal Police Headquarters in Wroclaw participated in the intervention: **Franciszek K., Rafal P., and Mariusz Sz.** The Ukrainian was taken to the centre handcuffed behind his back. His arms had been bent over his head by the officers, whilst one of them was pressing his head downwards. The sequence of events in the sobering centre was described by the editors of liberal daily *'Gazeta Wyborcza'* who had seen the CCTV footage: *'In the waiting room [the Ukrainian] is curled up, crying, and screaming something (the CCTV does not record audio). His face is all red. One of the frames shows a characteristic oily stain left by the tear gas. It looks so fresh that it must have been used immediately before the man was brought in'*. The article then describes the employees and policemen abusing the man during his stay at the centre. For several dozen minutes he was beaten, pressed to the ground, and suffocated. In the end an ambulance was called, but despite the resuscitation Nikiforenko died. According to preliminary expert opinion, the most likely cause of death was *'violent asphyxiation'*.

In October 2021, the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Szczecin informed the public about the charges against nine people: *'The Prosecutor charged three police officers with offences of abuse of official powers, assault, and battery leading to the death of a detained person'*. A fourth policeman was charged with allowing the physical abuse of a person detained in the sobering centre. Two employees of the centre were charged with physical abuse of the detained victim and assault leading to death. The medical doctor was accused of exposing the victim to direct danger of losing life. The Prosecutor also accused the Manager of the centre of inciting the paramedics to obstruction of

criminal investigation and certifying false information in the medical documentation regarding the victim's stay at the centre. The other employee of the centre was charged with the same.

25-year-old Dmytro Nikiforenko was from Nemirov (Vinnytsia Oblast) in Ukraine. He came to Poland in 2019.

KATOWICE. On 31 July during the second division football match GKS Katowice – **Resovia Rzeszow**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner with the words '*Blood and Honour*' (which was the slogan of **Hitlerjugend**).

AUGUST 2021

POLAND-BELARUS BORDER. In August and following months, a humanitarian crisis in the Podlasie and Lublin regions was ongoing due to the arrival of refugees who tried to cross the Polish border but were held in the forest in disastrous conditions and were watched over by Polish and Belarusian Guards, on both sides. Contrary to international law (including the Geneva Conventions) and the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, the majority of the people who managed to get to the Polish side and who expressed a desire to apply for international protection in Poland were forcibly returned to Belarus by the Polish Border Guard with the support of the army and the police (the so-called push-back tactic). [State of emergency was declared in a specific area on the Polish-Belarusian border in August 2021, in this way prohibiting access to the media and relief organisations – translator's note] As reported by Grupa Granica (Border Group) which is involved in the co-ordination of organisations and activists providing aid at the border, '*The actions of Belarusian and Polish Border Guards against migrant women and migrant men in the closed border zone include various forms of physical and mental violence, such as intimidation, enforcement of certain dangerous actions, arbitrary detentions, collective expulsions prohibited by international law, refusal of access to food, water, shelter, and medical assistance, and refusal of access to safeguarding procedures, as well as denial of the right to an effective remedy*' (report of 1 December, 2021). According to these findings, '*by 12 November 2021, death of eight people in the border areas on the Polish side was confirmed. We are talking only about confirmed cases – such as when bodies were found. It is difficult to estimate how many more people have died*'. Those staying at the border included people from Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Somalia, Syria, Turkey, as well as from Angola, Guinea, Cameroon, Cuba, Lebanon, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Tajikistan, among others.

Here is one example of the so-called push-back, i.e. a procedure applied to refugees by the Border Guard:

As reported by Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej (Association for Legal Intervention), on 29 August 2021, three men from Afghanistan crossed the Polish-Belarusian border in a place not intended for that purpose. They received humanitarian aid from the activists they encountered. The Border Guard was informed about the whereabouts of the men and that they expressed their desire to apply for international protection. The Afghans were taken to the Border Guard Post in Narewka and placed in cells for detainees. After a few hours, the guards took them in the middle of the night to the Białowieża Primeval Forest reserve and pushed them across the Polish-Belarusian border. On 28 March 2022, the District Court in Bielsk Podlaski, 7th Local Criminal Division in Hajnowka,

considered the arrest of the three men from Afghanistan illegal, unjustified and incorrect. In the justification of its decision, the Court emphasised, *'The actual purpose of the detention was to take the foreigners to the Polish-Belarusian border at night – out of sight of outsiders or journalists' cameras. Apart from the fact that it was highly inhumane to transport a group of people deep into a nature reserve without proper equipment, in the middle of the night, it was also against the law'*. It was the first Polish court ruling indicating that deportations (push-backs) on the Polish-Belarusian border are illegal.

On 19 August 2021, according to media reports, in the border town of Usnierz Gorny **Robert Bakiewicz** and representatives of **Stowarzyszenie Straz Narodowa (National Guard Association)**, a far-right nationalist movement) that he founded harassed the leaders of nearby villages, creating an atmosphere of fear streaked with xenophobia. Dressed in military-style clothing, including identical cargo pants, they conducted ideological agitation among the locals, referring to the (imaginary) threat posed by refugees. Bakiewicz and the extreme right activists accompanying him drove a car bearing the slogan: *'447. Against the unlawful plunder of Poland'* (this was a reference to the so-called Act 447: the Justice for Holocaust Survivors Act which was passed in 2018 in the US and is falsely portrayed by supporters of the far right as an order for Poland to pay the alleged 'Jewish claims').

On 19 August 2021, Robert Bakiewicz uploaded a xenophobic video material on Twitter recorded in Usnierz Gorny. He called the refugees held in the border zone for several days *'invaders'*. He also described them in the tweet as follows: *'We want a wall at the border that will protect us from invaders'*. He also declared that the so-called Straz Narodowa (National Guard) would, together with the state Border Guard, prevent them from crossing the border.

On 20 August 2021, an interview with Robert Bakiewicz was uploaded on YouTube on **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel, in which he repeated his offensive claims about refugees and xenophobic conspiracy theories about them, *'We can expect that this mass of invaders will grow. [...] The invaders are very well prepared, they sit in tents'*. He also argued, *'We cannot accept these invaders into the Polish state, we must separate ourselves from them!'* And contrary to the actual situation, he argued, *'There are no children here, there are healthy adult males, you could say brawny men, healthy sturdy guys ready to work, and they should do the work at their own place'*. National Media belongs to **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci (March of Independence Association)** led by Robert Bakiewicz which together with Stowarzyszenie Straz Narodowa received grants from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in 2021 totalling 3,000,000 PLN. The subsidy granted to National Media amounted to over 198,000 PLN. [In January 2023 the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association published a report on hate speech, antisemitic and anti-Ukrainian conspiracy theories propagated on the Media Narodowe YouTube channel. After the publication of this report, the Media Narodowe channel was removed from the platform – translator's note].

POLAND. In the August issue of the monthly *'W Drodze'*, poet, writer, and translator Jaroslaw Mikolajewski published an article entitled *'Przydrozna nienawisc'* ('Roadside Hate'), in which he described an antisemitic incident in a hotel on the Polish-Czech border. During a conversation, the hotel porter, a man in his seventies, turned to Mikolajewski to say the words, *'Hitler died too*

quickly... He could have killed them all. After all, this entire COVID is their fault'. He also added, 'Five Jews - it's all because of them'.

BELCHATOW. The August issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')* ran an article about the hooligans of the Lower Silesia province. It was accompanied by pictures taken on stands. Three of them depicted flags and scarves with racist content. They included: a banner of hooligans of **Karolina Jaworzyna Slaska**, with a Celtic cross (which is supposed to symbolise white supremacy); scarves displayed by hooligans of **Niemczanka Niemcza** with a Totenkopf (a characteristic skull used by the **SS** in World War II), and a huge flag of hooligans of **Piast Zmigrod** with the words *'Poland only for the Poles'*, a Celtic cross, a crossed-out image of a person wearing a turban and crossed-out symbols of a mosque and a crescent (a match with Polonia - Stal Swidnica, 26 September 2015). The image of that last banner was used on every page of that multi-page article.

BELCHATOW. The August issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')* ran an article about the hooligans of **Unia Tarnow**, with pictures taken at matches. One of them depicted a racist banner with the slogan *'White Uniated'* [sic!], and a Celtic cross (which is supposed to symbolise white supremacy) and the words *'Skinheads Tarnow'*. That flag was many times documented by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association in its monitoring of racism in football.

The same issue also depicted images of graffiti made by hooligans of **Legia Warszawa**. Two of them contained Nazi symbols. One depicted the slogan *'White Legion'*, along the so-called wolf hook (the Wolfsangel, a kind of a stylized swastika, originally used by **34th SS Division of Grenadiers Landstrom Nederland**). The other graffiti also depicted the Wolfsangel, partially covered with the Legia's emblem. In the past, the flag with the Wolfsangel was displayed by hooligans of Legia Warszawa.



KATOWICE. On 7 August, antisemitic incidents took place during the 'COVID-19 epidemic deniers' march. Far-right activist **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) stated in his speech that the so-called Act 447 (adopted in 2018 by the US, which is falsely presented by supporters of the far right as an order for Poland to pay the alleged 'Jewish claims') *'represents a Jewish war with the Polish nation'*. When a man standing next to him said of the President of the Republic of Poland, *'this is an American sausage stuffed with Israeli filling'*, the participants of the demonstration began chanting, *'F*ck the Jews'*. Olszanski, who was wearing a stylised military uniform with the symbol of the Slavic swastika, additionally directed death threats towards journalists. He shouted, *'I'll be shooting at you. [...] There are very good shooters among us, so these very good shooters will kill you with one shot. I will hurt you, it will f*cking hurt'*. The Municipal Police Headquarters in Katowice issued a statement that *'there were no incidents during the march'*.

LUBLIN. On 8 August during the third division football match **Motor Lublin** – Ruch Chorzow, local hooligans yet again displayed a banner with a slogan used by the **SS** during World War II: ‘*Our honour is loyalty*’ (in original: ‘*Meine Ehre heißt Treue*’).



SOSNOWIEC. On 8 August during the second division football match **Zagłębie Sosnowiec** – Widzew Lodz, local hooligans displayed on the fences a huge banner saying: ‘*It has always been and will be a pure country*’, a quote from lyrics of a neo-Nazi band **Honor**. The flag was stylized to a characteristic red-and-white logo of **Blood and Honour**, a neo-Nazi organisation (its name was a motto of **Hitlerjugend**).

WROCLAW. On 9 August, a Ukrainian resident of the city was attacked for xenophobic reasons. As he was driving a car, a passing driver shouted threats out of the window. When the man stopped to find out what had happened, the driver heard his eastern accent and exclaimed, ‘*a Ukrainian!*’ and attacked him. He knocked him to the ground, broke his nose and kicked him. A passing taxi driver called the police and helped the injured man. The Ukrainian citizen informed the ‘**NEVER AGAIN**’ Association about the incident.

WARSAW. On 11 August, at the Mlociny metro station a security guard behaved aggressively towards a Belarusian who was talking to the ticket inspector. The Belarusian was injured and later reported: ‘*[The guard] must have heard my accent, because he was clearly hostile to the foreign sound. He started tugging me, tearing my phone away, and when he saw that I had been recording the whole situation, he started calling me names. He shouted that he would report me to the Prosecutor’s Office, that he would make sure that I was deported, he insulted me and shouted profanities. He threatened to use his stun gun. He destroyed my phone*’. During this incident, also the ticket inspector attacked the Belarusian with a xenophobic question, ‘*Do you think that being from the East you can do anything you want?*’ The police were called to the scene. The injured passenger submitted a formal notification of the matter. The evidential material (including a recording from his phone) was transferred to the 5th District Police Headquarters, which initiated an investigation. The man also wrote a complaint to the Warsaw Metro, and after a few days he received a reply that there were no irregularities on the part of the ticket inspector. He has appealed against this decision. The Belarusian has been living in Poland since 2011.

KATOWICE. On 14 August during the second division football match **GKS Katowice** – **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner which called for violence against ‘*ideological enemies*’. It depicted a symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with a slogan often used by neo-fascists, ‘*Good night left side*’.

KIELCE. On 14 August, during the second division football match **Korona Kielce** – GKS Jastrzebie, the ‘*fans*’ of the host club were displaying a racist banner. It contained the acronym ‘**BHBD**’ which

stands for *‘Bialy honor, biala duma’* (*‘White honour, white pride’*), and comes from a popular ‘fan’ chant by a neo-Nazi band **Konkwista 88**.

GDANSK. In mid-August, neo-Nazi and Islamophobic stickers signed by **Bialy Front Poludnia** (**White Front of the South**) group appeared on Pomorska Street. They contained an image of **Adolf Hitler** against the background of the so-called black sun (a symbol used by the Nazis during World War II) and the slogan *‘Europe, we are coming back’*. Stickers with the abbreviation *‘A.R.A.B.’*, standing for *‘All Refugees Are Bastards’*, and a drawing depicting Muslims as terrorist, featuring a woman in a burqa and a man with a beard, both holding rifles in their hands. A member of the *‘NEVER AGAIN’* Association removed these stickers.

WARSAW. On 15 August, on the anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw (1920) [battle of the Polish-Soviet War in which the Red Army was defeated – translator’s note], a demonstration organised by **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski** (**NOP, National Rebirth of Poland**, nationalist and xenophobic organisation) marched through the streets of the city. It was also attended by members of extreme-right **Stowarzyszenie na rzecz Tradycji i Kultury Niklot** (**Niklot Association for Tradition and Culture**) and **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny** (**National-Radical Camp**). Demonstrators displayed a huge banner with the slogan *‘Death to the enemies of the motherland’* (now used as encouragement for aggression on an ideological basis). The audience was addressed by **Marzena Dobner**, a member of NOP, who made racist statements, *‘Due to the perfidious multi-culti policy implemented by the minions of the Euro-kolkhoz [use of terms alluding to the former USSR while referring to the EU – translator’s note], we are facing a crisis in Europe. A crisis caused by indulgence towards the admission to our continent of masses of immigrants from regions of the world that are culturally alien. It is because of the blatant mistakes of the EU dictatorship that modern representatives of indigenous European nations are afraid of their own shadow. They flee to the suburbs from hordes of coloured criminals. They are giving away a sovereign Europe without a fight’*.

WROCLAW. On 15 August during the third division match between Slask II Wroclaw and **Motor Lublin**, visiting hooligans displayed on the fences a huge banner with an **SS** slogan: *‘Our honour is loyalty’* (in original: *‘Meine Ehre heißt Treue’*), that was used during World War II.



BYTOM. On 17 August, **Maciej Bartkow**, a **Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc** (**Law and Justice** governing party) Councillor, posted antisemitic material on his Facebook profile: a picture of an Orthodox Jew in a hat, raising his hands in a gesture of lamentation, and a contemptuous, stereotypical comment, *‘Nothing hurts them more than a loss of monies. We do not buy products with this [barcode – ed.]. Code of Israeli products’*. In addition, since July 2019 Councillor Bartkow has displayed an offensive and discriminatory slogan on his Facebook profile photo: *‘LGBT-free zone’*.

RUDZICA. On 17 August, residents of this village in the Konin County reported that *‘unknown perpetrators’* had devastated a symbolic grave commemorating Jews murdered during World War

II. An inscription '*Ave Hitler*' was scratched onto the monument, while two commemorative plaques and part of the fence around the monument were also damaged.

In September and October 1941, in the forest in Nieslusz-Rudzica, the Nazis shot 1,500 Jewish inhabitants of Konin, Kleczew, Skulsk, Słupca and other nearby towns. The victims were buried in three mass graves. In the spring of 1944, the Nazis returned to the site to cover up traces of the crime. The bodies of the victims were lifted from the ground and burned, and their ashes scattered around the area. A symbolic grave commemorating the Jewish victims was installed in 1977.

LUBLIN. On 18 August during the third division match between **Motor Lublin** and Hutnik Krakow, local hooligans yet again displayed on the fences a huge Nazi banner. It contained an **SS** slogan: '*Our honour is loyalty*' (in original: '*Meine Ehre heißt Treue*').

WARSAW. On 18 August, **Przemysław Wenerski**, editorial director of one of the programmes on **TVP1** (a national state-owned television channel) and a member of the Media Ethics Committee of TVP, made a post on Twitter in which he described refugees held on the Polish-Belarusian border as '*biological weapons*'. His statement was met with many critical comments. In response, Wenerski sustained his opinion.

USNARZ GORNY. On 20 August, an interview with **Robert Bakiewicz** (leader of the far-right **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci – March of Independence Association**) appeared on YouTube on **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel, in which he repeated offensive claims and xenophobic conspiracy theories about refugees who tried to cross the Polish-Belarusian border, but were held in the forest in disastrous conditions and watched over by guards on both sides: '*We can expect that this mass of invaders will increase. [...] The invaders are very well prepared, they sit in tents*'. He also argued: '*We cannot accept these invaders to the Polish state, we must separate ourselves from them!*' And contrary to the actual situation, he argued: '*There are no children here, there are healthy adult guys, you could say boys, healthy «bulls» for work and these bulls should do the work in their own home*'.

CHELM. On 21 August during the fourth division football match **Chelmianka Chelm** – Korona Rzeszow, activists of the far-right group **Młodzi Patrioci Chelm** (Young Patriots of Chelm) carried out an antisemitic leaflet action. In collaboration with hooligans of Chelmianka Chelm, they gave out more than 100 leaflets against the planned name for one of local squares, the Szmul Zygielbojm square. (Szmul Zygielbojm was a Polish-Jewish politician, a member of Bund – a secular Jewish socialist party active in the midwar – a member of the Polish National Council in London since 1942. After the fall of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, on 12 or 13 May 1943 in London, he committed suicide to protest the inaction of the Allies towards the Holocaust). The leaflet included a conspiracy theory that '*Chelm is becoming a testing ground for a pro-Israeli historic policy*', along with false accusations towards Bund as '*anti-Polish*' and '*anti-national*'. After the match, Młodzi Patrioci Chelm covered the town with posters with the same antisemitic content.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 21 August, at Galeria Jurajska shopping centre on Wojska Polskiego Avenue two teenage participants of the Equality March (Pride) who were both carrying rainbow flags were

forced to leave the premises by security guards. One of the teenagers reported, *'The security guards insulted us and finally kicked us out of the building just because we came in with rainbow flags'*. She also added, *'Finally, one of them told us to get the f*ck out, and when we went outside, his friend began ostentatiously pushing us towards the road'*. According to Galeria Jurajska's management, the teenagers were in breach of the *'total ban on organising rallies'* in the centre.

WARSAW. On 21 August, on **TVP Info** (state-owned national news channel) in a programme co-hosted with **Magdalena Ogorek**, **Jaroslav Jakimowicz** made contemptuous statements about the LGBT people. He stated, *'after such an Equality March [which took place that day in the city of Czestochowa – ed.], in which we know who is participating, how they are behaving, full pest control should be done!'* In this context, Jakimowicz also mentioned the alleged same-sex relationship of the Polish actor Krzysztof Kolberger, who died in 2011. In a completely unauthorised manner he made the following thread public: *'When I used to live in Barcelona, Spain, a frequent guest at my home was the well-known actor, Krzysztof Kolberger. He used to come with his partner'*.

WROCLAW. On 21 August, hooligans of **Slask Wroclaw** held a tournament in the memory of the ex-leader of the hooligans from Wroclaw, author of the book *'How I fell in love with Adolf Hitler'*, **Roman Zielinski**, sentenced in 2015 to community service for inciting hatred on the grounds of nationality and race. During the event, hooligans displayed a banner with a Celtic cross (an international racism symbol) and the slogan *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'* (in contemporary context it is used by extreme nationalists to call for ideologically motivated violence). The floor was taken by a former priest and far-right activist **Jacek Miedlar**, who in 2021 received a community sentence for insulting and inciting hatred towards people of Jewish and Ukrainian origin. During the tournament, Miedlar called Zielinski *'a cursed soldier of the 20 c. and 21 c'* (in reference to far-right anti-Communist underground in the late 1940 s.).



WARSAW. On 22 August, Piotr Czaban, a TVN24 (the biggest independent news channel in Poland) journalist and author of reports on the situation of refugees on the Polish-Belarusian border, received death threats from an unknown sender. The e-mail sent was as follows: *'Maybe you will join the emigrants on the Belarusian side, pray the rosary with them there, and teach them alphabet. And you will have loyal viewers, because so far you are only to be shot and buried in a sitting position along with the rest of your TVN bunch'*. The sender of this e-mail contemptuously and dehumanisingly called for not helping the refugees: *'No food or water should be given! Animals go to their watering hole themselves!'*

WARSAW. On 22 August, far-right commentator **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz** broadcast a video on his YouTube channel in which he blamed Jews for benefitting from slavery. In doing so, he voiced his support for the leader of a radical religious movement **Nation of Islam**, **Louis Farrakhan**,

known for his antisemitic agenda. Referencing his words, Michalkiewicz claimed, *'socialism was conceived by Jews to destroy N*groes. And so Jews, at his sight, because they are so powerful in the United States and very influential, but at Farrakhan's sight they get nervous jitters'*. He also added, *'Indeed Jews had a lot of influence in the slave trade'*. He also mocked the international Black Lives Matter movement by saying, *'The West does not kneel in front of N*groes, only a handful of morons, the rest doesn't kneel'*.

ZBROSZA DUZA. On 22 August, during a mass in the Church of St. John the Baptist, the Parish Priest Fr. **Ryszard Kania** delivered a sermon deemed offensive to followers of Islam. Kania stated, *'refugees are not refugees, but Muslims, who do not flee from death. They come not to work, but to [...] turn our churches into mosques'*. He was referring to the humanitarian crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border and the refugees residing there. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, former Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York and former Polish Ambassador to Israel, reported this sermon on social media.

POZNAN. On the night of 22/23 August, on Ulanska Street *'unknown perpetrators'* destroyed a car belonging to a city resident who ran a family care and educational facility. The attackers broke all windows in the car, wrecked the car body, and tried to tear off the license plates. The owner reported, *'I think that the fact that the car is covered with anti-fascist stickers [...] supporting the LBGT+ community and Strajk Kobiet [Women's Strike, a major gender-equality and women's rights movement in Poland – translator's note] is not without significance with regard to this act of vandalism. A few months ago the car was sprayed with the SS signs. I am convinced that people associated with fascist and homophobic circles are behind it'*. She also added, *'During the 17 years of our facility's operation, I have taken care of a dozen or so children. This is a car that is essential to the functioning of our family. And now it is completely destroyed'*.

WARSAW. On 25 August, at the Warsaw's Eastern Railway Station two employees of the **Biedronka** supermarket resorted to violence against a customer of the store, a British Indian. The manager and the security guard groundlessly accused him of theft. *'I had the receipt in my hand, but I was not asked any questions before the attack, although I kept it in my hand in their view. They didn't ask for it and ignored it. They repeatedly conducted aggressive body searches, pulled my clothes up to show my naked skin in front of many other clients. At the same time, I was pushed by the store manager from behind and the security guard from the front. I can't help but think that it was a racially motivated act'*, reported the injured man. He notified the police about the case, but they refused to initiate any investigation. The British man also submitted a complaint to the Biedronka chain. The two employees did not suffer any consequences for their behaviour, nor did they apologise to the British customer.

WARSAW. On 25 August, *'Gazeta Polska'* (*'Polish Newspaper'*, a right-wing populist to far-right weekly magazine, No. 34/2021), published a letter from the reader by the pseudonym **'Minesweeper'** (containing no name), in which he encouraged the killing of refugees from the Middle East and Africa staying on the Polish-Belarusian border. The author of the letter wrote, *'Here there must be a clear and decisive signal! Mine the entire border at a kilometre width, fence off the*

border at entire length, erect multi-meter walls, set up an army with sharp weapons, also connect 24/7 drones with automatic weapons and shoot intruders with machine-gun series, if necessary!'. He also added, *'They are invaders into our country who want to squeeze in here and introduce their order, 180-degrees different from our cultural world. The sooner this is clearly and firmly demonstrated to them, the faster it will reach them!'* The issue of the release of this letter was publicised by the journalist of *'Gazeta Wyborcza'* (liberal daily newspaper) Grzegorz Wysocki who, expressing his outrage, sarcastically said, *'If the editorial office of «Gazeta Polska» thinks that this kind of «advice» should really be printed (not to mention that there was no accompanying note from the editorial office), and it is indeed printed, then the situation is not only much worse than we thought. It's simply dangerous'*. He also pointed out that this letter was not *'any accidental excess'* and was a part of the messaging of this issue of *'Gazeta Polska'*, which had a slogan *'the storm of immigrants'* on its cover.

WARSAW. On 26 August, on his YouTube channel the columnist **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz** (well-known antisemitic commentator of the far right) spoke in a racist and mocking manner about refugees detained on the Polish-Belarusian border. He described them as *'exotic slyboots called refugees'*. And he went on to talk about *'exotic gentlemen from Iraq and Syria'* who *'as refugees are discreetly pushed [to the border with Poland – ed.]'*, thus undermining their right to seek protection from war and persecution.

WARSAW. On 26 August, Radoslaw Sikorski, Koalicja Obywatelska (Civic Coalition, a major coalition of liberal parties, currently in opposition to the government) Member of European Parliament, former Minister and former Speaker of the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament), posted an anonymous antisemitic letter on Facebook, which he had received by post. It contained death threats towards him and his family, including his wife, Anne Applebaum, an outstanding journalist and Polish citizen of American-Jewish origin. The letter contained the following statements: *'You have no right to say that you are Polish! You b*stard, have you forgotten that Hitler knew what he was doing, and it's a pity he hadn't burned all Jews, today your Applebaum would not exist, teasing you and spreading nonsense in the USA. One cannot tolerate such a stupid and primitive woman who constantly stinks of garlic'*. The author of the letter, addressing the former Speaker of the Sejm, threatened, *'Remember, son of a b*tch..., if you don't stop barking at Poland, say goodbye to Aleksi and Tadzio [Sikorski's sons – ed.], because you f*cker, you disgrace, you will die'*. And further on, *'You want to federate us with Germany. You make us dependent on Brussels, you provoke hatred, but you will perish like the dinosaurs. We wish for you primitive to get on a plane that will never land! [...] Be silent – if not, we will help you!'* The letter was signed, *'Compatriots'*. In a media statement Sikorski said, *'This is the second attack aimed directly at me. On 10 April, and this is a significant date [on 10 April 2010 a plane crash happened in which the President of Poland and many other senior officials died – translator's note], someone painted the gate and the stones on the way to our house. This hooligan attack, combined with the letter, are things that one cannot be silent about. I have reported this to the police'*. The County Police Headquarters in Naklo nad Notecia initiated proceedings regarding the threats.

WARSAW. On 27 August, an exhibition entitled *'Political art'* opened at the Centrum Sztuki Współczesnej Zamek Ujazdowski (CSW; Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art), showcasing works of the Swedish creator **Dan Park**, a Holocaust denier and a sympathiser of neo-Nazism. Jewish organisations protested against his participation in the exhibition by sending an open letter to **Piotr Bernatowicz**, the Director of the CSW. The letter stated, *'Dan Park has been sentenced to imprisonment for spreading hatred and publicly using racist slurs on social media. He denies the Holocaust, publishes photos on the internet in which he makes Nazi salute, he planted a can with a sign «Zyklon B» in the Jewish community in Malmo. Inviting people with such worldview to an exhibition in Poland arouses our surprise and makes us sad. [...] We do not agree with us and other minorities being insulted in the public space, and with supporting people who spread hatred, intolerance, and hostility towards people who differ from them'*. In response to this letter Bernatowicz stated that he would not remove Park's works from the exhibition. On 21 August, in an interview with the Polish Press Agency, the director of the CSW criticised the decisions of Swedish courts and defended the street artist, *'His works are neither racist nor Nazi. [...] In fact, it is Dan Park who criticises racism, that is, privilege of certain ethnic or racial groups over others'* [sic!]. During the opening reception of the exhibition, a performance by **Uwe Max Jensen**, a Dane known for promoting anti-Islamic content, took place. During the 'performance' in the courtyard of the CSW, Jensen waved the American **Confederate** flag (which was used during the American Civil War by the southern states fighting to maintain slavery and is now considered a symbol of racial discrimination), stripped naked, smeared himself with black paint (thus reproducing the 'black face' make-up that parodies black people) and then rolled on the ground screaming the last words of George Floyd who was murdered by the police in 2020 in USA, *'I can't breathe'*.

PODKOWA LESNA. On 30 August, three children from Afghanistan staying at the Reception Centre for Foreigners in Podkowa Lesna-Debak became ill after inadvertently eating poisonous mushrooms (toadstools). Abusive, racist comments surfaced under internet articles informing that two of the boys were in critical condition and one qualified for a liver transplant. Here are some examples of such entries – without reaction from moderators – on **Wirtualna Polska**, **O2** and **Wykop.pl** portals:

- *'Well, now you have to teach these minions from the 3rd world how the state, law, and culture work, to read, to write – who will pay for it? Who will take care of all this? Either they will hurt themselves (not that bad) or hurt us, the society, because the poor ones did not know – well, no excuse'*,
- *'finally some good news about immigrants'*,
- *'and what, a Polish child waiting for a liver will not get it'*,
- *'they will sacrifice the lives of children to achieve the goal... what a race'*,
- *'I would rather eat this liver with onion than cut them slack'*,
- *'They will now kill a Polish child to show the world how generous and hospitable we are to immigrants'*,
- *'Criminals are forcing themselves into the whole of Europe. This is what Allah whispers into their ears: destroy all of Europe and the infidels. Each such person is a murderer, see what they did at home'*,
- *'Terrorists, so it's not a pity'*,
- *'Afghans, they are wild people. Whatever they find, they will eat it'*.

There were also conspiratorial comments denying the reality of what happened, such as: *‘Where is the information that the poisoned boy exists? There isn’t. Not in the text, and the title says there is no poisoned boy on the border. This «on the border» has probably been added as a base for propagandists who will do anything to defend the truthfulness of this sh*t’.*

WARSAW. On 30 August, on the YouTube channel **Media Narodowe Extra (National Media Extra)**, the anti-abortion activist of the **Zycie i Rodzina Foundation (Life and Family Foundation)**, an ultra-conservative organisation), **Kaja Godek**, a 2019 candidate for the European Parliament from the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) list, made offensive statements about the LGBT community. She stated that: *‘There is indeed a lot of interest in children in the LGBT community, also amongst the queer groups. This, I think, is for two reasons. First, because – to state the obvious – different deviations go hand in hand. And [second] the increased prevalence of paedophiles in these groups is a fact’.* Godek also resorted to homophobic conspiracy theories: *‘The ultimate goal of LGBT activists [...] is to destroy the family, to destroy the traditional social order, destruction of tradition in general, destruction of the Church, religion, culture and civilization’.* In promoting conspiratorial visions of the world, she was seconded by **Agnieszka Borkiewicz** who stated: *‘There is in the Catholic Church The Lavender Mafia associated with homosexuals. They often enter the structures of the Church in order to later destroy the Church from the inside through scandals and sexual abuse of kids’.* Godek added her approving comment: *‘The problem of paedophiles in the Church will end when the problem of the homolobby in the Church ends’.*

POLAND. On 31 August, a story on **Sport.tvp.pl** (state-owned sport portal) about a press conference before a World Cup qualifying match Poland – Albania, omitted a statement by Robert Lewandowski saying that he would not mind playing with a rainbow-coloured armband (symbol of the LGBT community). When asked by a journalist about such an armband, Lewandowski said: *‘I think I wouldn’t mind [wearing it]. Each of us is human, each of us has emotions and deserves support and respect’.* This statement, considered a declaration of support for LGBT, was widely commented in Polish and foreign media. When the omission by TVP Sport was reported by the *‘Press’* magazine, the statement was added back to the story.

SEPTEMBER 2021

SEJNY. On 1 September, on Pilsudskiego Street a group of demonstrators organised an antisemitic event in front of the White Synagogue. A man using a megaphone shouted, *‘God, open the eyes of the Talmud followers to the true God’*, while a woman... poured holy water onto the doors and stairs of the synagogue. The demonstrators came with a car platform on which they placed an image of Jesus Christ with the inscription *‘Jesus Christ the King of Poland’*, and they also carried crosses. During World War II, the White Synagogue was devastated by the Nazis. It is now used as a meeting place for conferences, exhibitions, and concerts organised by Osrodek Pogranicze – Sztuk, Kultur, Narodow (Borderland of Arts, Cultures, and Nations Centre), which promotes Jewish heritage, the ethos of the borderland, and builds bridges between people of different religions, nationalities and cultures.

BELCHATOW. The September issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine *‘To My Kibice’* (*‘It’s Us Fans’*) ran an article about the club of **Motor Lublin**, with pictures taken at the matches of that team. One of the pictures depicted a banner with the slogan: *‘Our honour is loyalty’*, which was the **SS** motto during World War II: *‘Meine Ehre heißt Treue’*. Hooligans of Motor have used that banner for many years without any consequences.

WARSAW. On 2 September, the co-founder of Behemoth music band and singer **Adam Darski** aka **‘Nergal’** insulted an Uber driver from Ukraine. Whilst in the car, the musician did not respond to the driver’s repeated requests not to keep his leg raised next to the driver’s face. Nergal ostentatiously kept his leg crossed on the knee and high up. The taxi driver decided to refuse the service and stopped the vehicle. Darski recorded everything on his phone and commented on the situation, *‘This is how an Uber-man from Ukraine works in Poland. An unfortunate advertisement for Ukraine’*. Getting out of the car, he called the Ukrainian, *‘What a stupid idiot’*. The video with the driver’s image and the car’s registration plate, was posted on Instagram, without consent.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 3 September, during a football friendly match between **Rakow Czestochowa** and Videoton Székesfehérvár, Polish hooligans hung a banner on the fence around the pitch, which expressed support for **Janusz Walus**, serving a life sentence in South Africa for a racially motivated murder [on parole since December 2022 – translator’s note]. The banner contained the image of the murderer and a caption: *‘Janusz Walus is our guide’*. Moreover, the Rakow ‘fans’ were displaying a banner containing words *‘Blood and Honour’* (**Hitlerjugend** slogan). This specific red and white flag was imitating the logotype of the international neo-Nazi organisation **Blood and Honour**.



DABROWA GORNICZA. On 4 September during the fifth division football match **Unia Dabrowa Gornicza** – Unia Kosztowy (Myslowice), local hooligans displayed a **Confederate** flag (used by the racist South in the Civil War in the US, and nowadays by numerous racist groups).

POZNAN. On the night of September 4/5, in a club on Paderewskiego Street three attackers brutally beat Tor Junior Kondok Simon, a Black footballer from LKS Korona Piaski, a fifth division club. According to the victim’s account it was a racist assault, the perpetrators first attacked him inside the premises, and when security guards ordered everyone to go outside, several men beat him again. As a result, the 19-year-old lost consciousness and was taken to hospital. He suffered a concussion and injuries to his body. On 14 September, the police detained three residents of Gorzow Wielkopolski and charged them with assault and causing grievous bodily harm. The District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Poznan-Stare Miasto also initiated separate proceedings regarding the behaviour of the aggrieved player. Tor Junior Kondok Simon was born in South Sudan and grew up in Uganda. He came to Poland in 2019 to study.

WARSAW. On 8 September, before the commencement of the FIFA World Cup qualifier between Poland and England, Polish hooligans booed the English football players who took the knee to

express solidarity with the victims of racism as part of the international movement Black Lives Matter.

A bizarre comment, condemning the English players, was published by **Roman Giertych**, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for National Education (2006-2007), and also former president of the far-right organisation **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)** and the **Liga Polskich Rodzin (League of Polish Families)** party). On 9 September Giertych tweeted: *'Taking the knee on the football pitch to express regret about what once was the ancestors' pride is an example of correctness that destroys the West'*.

LODZ. On 10 September, in a city centre car park a courier of one of the transport companies hurled racist insults at a female Ukrainian resident of Lodz. The woman tried to pass a delivery truck in order to drive out of a crowded car park and asked the driver to move a little. In response, the man shouted at her that she was *'an Afghan wh*re'* and that she should *'f*ck off from Poland'*. When the Ukrainian woman called the police, the courier left the scene.

OSTROW WIELKOPOLSKI. On 11 September, *'unknown perpetrators'* destroyed the entrance to the office of two Lewica (the Left party) Members of Parliament: Karolina Pawliczak and Wiesław Szczepanski. They painted racist symbols on the facade of the building, namely the Celtic Cross and the slogans *'Kill LGBT'* and *'Out with Left!'* They then doused the door to the office with paint.

On the same day, a youth picnic Different But Equal in Ostrow Wielkopolski took place in the City Park, organised by the Young Left. A group of extreme right supporters attempted to disrupt the event and the police had to intervene.

SWINOUJSCIE. On 11 September, on Pilsudskiego Street a young resident of the city attacked a man with Asian face features. He hit him from behind and knocked him to the ground. He then ran away and joined his two friends. The attack was witnessed by a woman who informed the local website iswinoujscie.pl about the incident, *'The attacked person was asking for the police and his calls were accompanied all the time by the laughter of the amused young men. A racist attack by «the heroes» of Swinoujscie who handed out treatment of this sort to an innocent passer-by. As he later said, it was not his first encounter with this type of adventure in our city. A few days earlier, he had been punched in the face for no reason. Also unexpectedly, also by surprise and also «for fun»'*.

LODZ. On 12 September, on Piotrkowska Street the right-wing extremists of **Autonomiczni Nacjonalisci (Autonomous Nationalists)** and **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)** organised a xenophobic protest. A group of people with anti-fascist banners and a rainbow flag (LGBT symbol) who were protesting against this event were attacked by the supporters of the extreme right. The attackers made threats and tried to tear their flags away, and so they clashed. One of the injured men reported, *'They had flags with a phalanx [far right symbol – translator's note] with them and they shouted insulting phrases about refugees. [...] They were standing very close to us, pressing on, and taking photos. I was sure it would only be a matter of seconds before they hit me in the face. I called the police [the police were not involved in securing this assembly of nationalists – ed.]'*. The man was recorded by aggressive demonstrators, who posted a video featuring his image on the internet.

WARSAW. On 12 September, during the beatification ceremony of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński and Mother Elżbieta Czacka antisemitic and homophobic books were sold at the stalls around the Temple of Divine Providence. The titles on offer included **Stanisław Trzeciak's 'World Program of Jewish Policy'** (contemporary edition, with no historical commentary; Trzeciak was a leading ideologist of pre-war anti-Semitism, who called for the removal of all Jews from Warsaw in newspaper articles, books and public speeches), **'Return to Jedwabne'** by **Wojciech Sumliński**, **Ewa Bujwid-Kurek** and **Tomasz Budzynski** (the authors question the responsibility of Poles for the pogrom in Jedwabne in 1941 and promote antisemitic conspiracy theories), **'Polish Freemasonry 2021. The Great Reset'** by **Stanisław Krajski** (a commentator known for promoting antisemitic conspiracy theories), **'Judeopolonia II. Anatomy of Poland's Enslavement'** by **Andrzej Leszek Szczesniak** (author of school history textbooks which were criticised for their antisemitic nature; Szczesniak was a columnist for **'Nasz Dziennik'** and **Radio Maryja**, which belongs to **Tadeusz Rydzyk**, a very influential radical nationalist preacher) and **Leszek Szymowski's 'Homo Terror'** (the author argues that the goal of gay men is to *'destroy the current society and existing value systems'*). None of the people gathered or the city guards patrolling the area reacted to the sale of these hate-promoting publications.

In addition, one participant in the ceremony displayed an anti-vaccination banner in front of the church, which compared the COVID-19 vaccinations to the suffering and murder of children in the Auschwitz extermination camp. The banner included a picture of a crying child and the words, *'This is a genetic experiment on children like in Auschwitz. Let's stop this'*.

WARSAW. On 14 September, in Wilcza Street an unidentified woman shouted xenophobic insults at a Chechnyan employee of Kuchnia Konflikty (Conflict Kitchen) restaurant. *'A woman passing by noticed one of our colleagues working in the kitchen who was wearing a hijab [a headscarf worn by many Muslim women – translator's note], so she stood in front of the entrance and started shouting at the top of her voice that the girl should return to the country she came from'*, reported Jarmila Rybicka, the founder of the restaurant. She also recounted other similar incidents based on prejudice, *'Over the last week, someone regularly has been removing the «Refugees welcome» stickers that we put on the entrance door. We replace the stickers, and they get removed again. It might seem a trivial incident, but it evokes a sense of danger'*. Conflict Kitchen, a restaurant opened in 2018 in Warsaw, is run by refugees.

PULTUSK. In mid-September, **Adam Nalewajk**, a Councillor representing **Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (Polish People's Party)** and a European and world bench press champion, published antisemitic and xenophobic comments on his Facebook profile. Nalewajk wrote, *'I am an antisemite and proud of it!!! [...] Germans and Russians – everlasting enemies. Poland for Poles, not for Jews and lefties! The only hope for the beloved Poland is the [...] national, patriotic, honorary Konfederacja [Confederation party– translator's note]'* and, *'There are too many lefty Jews in Poland. Poland for Poles! I would know what to do with the lefty Jews and other garbage – but I will not write that'*. The editors of the Jewish.pl portal informed the public about these posts, which were subsequently removed. Nalewajk's Facebook account was also deleted.

WARSAW. On 15 September, a demonstration of COVID-19 deniers organised by **Ogólnopolskie Stowarzyszenie Wiedzy o Szczepieniach Stop NOP (National Association for Vaccination Knowledge Stop NOP**, organisation striving to abolish compulsory vaccinations for children against infectious diseases) took place in front of the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament). Three of the participants verbally attacked Wirtualna Polska (web portal) journalist Patryk Michalski because... he was wearing a face mask. They called him a *'f*ggot'* and *'a traitor of the nation'*. One man acted aggressively, began recording the journalist with his cell phone and shouting, *'Worse than a Jew!'* The crowd gathering nearby chanted at the same time, *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'* and, *'This is Poland, not Polin'* [the word means Poland in Hebrew; antisemitic conspiracy theory name, according to which *'Polin'* would be a Jewish state, formed after overtaking Poland – translator's note].

KIELCE. On 18 September during the Ekstraklasa match **Korona Kielce** – Legia Warszawa, local hooligans displayed a racist flag with the letters *'BHBD'* (which refer to a popular hooligan song by a neo-Nazi band **Konkwista 88**, and stand for *'Bialy Honor, Biala Duma'* (*'White honour, white pride'*). This banner was displayed for many years at the matches of Korona Kielce and now it returned after a long pause, with no reaction by the club or association.

KOSTRZYN NAD ODRA. On 18 September during the fifth division football match, Celuloza Kostrzyn nad Odra – **KS Stilon Gorzow Wielkopolski**, visiting hooligans displayed a **Confederate** flag (used by the racist South in the Civil War in the US, and nowadays by numerous racist groups).

LUBLIN. On 18 September during the third division football match **Motor Lublin** – Garbarnia Krakow, local hooligans displayed on the fences a huge banner with an **SS** slogan: *'Our honour is loyalty'* (in original: *'Meine Ehre heißt Treue'*), that was used during World War II. This slogan has been displayed for many years on banners held by the hooligans of Motor Lublin.



SZKLARSKA POREBA. On 18 September, in **Willa Nimfa** on Obroncow Pokoju Street the hotel staff acted motivated by ethnic prejudices against a man from Ukraine. His partner, a Polish woman, was informed in a telephone conversation that a driving license would be a sufficient identity document when booking the accommodation. In the hotel already it turned out that the couple was refused a room. The woman described the situation as follows: *'My partner is Ukrainian, he has a Ukrainian driving license, so the owner talked only to me, he ignored my partner. He said he would not go looking for us in Ukraine, he asked if I had any Polish document. I explained that I did not have any, that he had asked for a driving license and got it, so I did not understand the problem. The owner replied that the problem was that it was a Ukrainian document. We thanked him and left'*. The woman informed the **'NEVER AGAIN'** Association about this event, as well as the Booking.com website, through which she had found this hotel in Szklarska Poreba.

BORKOWO. On 19 September during a football match **Orzel Borkowo** – Korona Rywald, local hooligans displayed a banner with a Celtic cross (which is supposed to symbolise white supremacy).

SZEPIETOWO. On 19 September during the fifth division football match **Sparta Szepietowo** – **LKS Lomza**, hooligans of both teams (on friendly terms with each other) displayed a homophobic banner. It contained a pornographic image of the campaign ‘*No faggotry*’.

CHELM. On 21 September, the far-right group **Autonomiczni Nacjonalisci (Autonomous Nationalists)** put up several hundred posters on the streets of the city with the slogan ‘*We remember Jewish crimes in Chelm*’. They additionally hung banners containing the slogan ‘*We remember the crimes*’ and a picture of a crossed-out Star of David. Supporters of the extreme right thus reproduced the myth of the so-called Judeo-communism, which is contrary to historical facts [aka Judeo-Bolshevism, antisemitic stereotype of Jews as communist traitors – translator’s note].

POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDER. On 21 September, activists from Grupa Granica (Border Group) which delivers humanitarian aid on the border tried to call for medical aid for four young Congolese refugees, but the operator of the 112 emergency number – without completing all of his duties – refused to send an ambulance. On that day, activists received a text message from refugees: ‘*We are hungry, we are cold, we will die*’, as well as the exact location (the so-called pin) in the near-border zone of emergency [state of emergency was declared in a specific area on the Polish-Belarusian border in August 2021, in this way prohibiting access to the media and relief organisations – translator’s note]. Three boys and a girl had been wandering in the woods for five days, and finally contact with them was lost. Activists from the Grupa Granica – suspecting that the young people were in a state of hypothermia – informed the Border Guard about it and called the emergency number 112. During the conversation, the operator questioned the legitimacy of the report and made assumptions about the alleged intervention by the officers, ‘*How do you know that they are dying? If there is a guard on the spot, they must have checked this information [...]. They are the ones looking after the refugees here, right?*’ And further on he stated, ‘*It doesn’t matter whether he’s dying or not. This is a person staying in Poland illegally*’. The operator did not connect the woman to the medical dispatcher nor contact the Border Guard to check if they actually had accepted the report. His behavior was commented on by one of the paramedics in a press statement, ‘*I would ask about their medical history, that is, I would obtain all data on their health that this woman had. It does not matter that they are refugees or that they are in the zone of emergency. I perceive work in rescue teams in such a way that you are helping a person who needs it. Regardless of the circumstances*’. On the night of 21/22 September, the Border Guard found the four Congolese in a forest near Nowy Dwor in the Sokolski County.

KRAKOW. On 22 September, local media reported that the Head of the Secondary School No. 64 **Mariusz Graniczka** had discriminated against and acted contemptuously towards a student with a disability. At the first parents’ meeting, the Headteacher told the boy’s mother that her son’s presence in the tourism-linguistics class was ‘*a misunderstanding and that if he stayed, he would become an object of class mockery*’. He demanded that the student be transferred to the humanities class. During the admissions process, the school was informed that the boy had a certificate of

disability (due to a serious heart defect) and was exempt from participating in physical education lessons. In an interview with *'Gazeta Wyborcza'* (liberal daily newspaper), his mother reported, *'My son chose a class with extended biology, geography and English lessons. To be admitted, no sports tests were carried out. The fact that you have to have them is not mentioned on the school's website either'*. The school authorities made no attempt to contact the boy's parents. *'Instead, they preferred to decide to remove him from the class after two weeks of studying and announce that he would be moved to another one within one day. The greatest regret I feel is for that. As well as for the way the Headteacher talked to me'*, added the student's mother. Because of this situation the boy changed schools.

On 13 September 2021, Councillor Lukasz Sek filed a complaint to the Mayor of Krakow Jacek Majchrowski against the Headteacher Mariusz Graniczka for calling the parents of students who gave up religion lessons to ask them *'whether they were atheists or dissenters'*. The Councillor emphasised that according to the ordinance of the Ministry of National Education the Headteacher *'neither had any grounds to summon parents, nor to require any statements from them. [...] [The application is submitted – ed.] to request that the children participate in religion or ethics lessons, and not that they be removed from them'*.

WARSAW. On 23 September, **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, broadcast an interview with **Wojciech Sumlinski** (far-right conspiracy theorist) on the topic of his film **'Return to Jedwabne'**, where he challenges the culpability of Poles for the Jedwabne massacre in 1941 and promotes antisemitic conspiracy theories. During the programme Sumlinski claimed, *'... Jews have already divided Poland'*. The presenter **Piotr Szlachtowicz** backed him up and asked, *'Is Poland already Polin?'* [Polin in Hebrew means Poland. In this antisemitic context, 'Polin' should be understood as a Jewish state, created after taking over of Poland – translator's note] to which Sumlinski responded, *'I'm leaning towards answering yes, Poland is already Polin. [...] [The Jews – ed.] are preparing for that, for colonisation, to make ownership changes, to have their Polin here. But when it comes to the question of governance, the question of who has the most influence, the most to say, then Poland is already Polin'*. Later Szlachtowicz claimed, *'we have enormous censorship regarding the true face of the Jewish communities, not only in Poland, but around the world, that want to enslave us'*. In response, Sumlinski recalled another antisemitic conspiracy theory – this time connected to COVID-19, *'It's a weird coincidence that when we look at all these foundations, the Rockefeller, all the Gateses, who stand at the origin of this pandemic/not-pandemic, then we see that they all have common roots, that all of this stems from one nationality. [...] We have to show resistance. [...] It's clearly visible which way it's going. The pandemic and what the Jews are doing'*.

BOGATYNIA. On 24 September, an act of discrimination against a Czech journalist Filip Harzer took place in this city located on the border with the Czech Republic, on Chelmonskiego Street in the gastronomic establishment **Alaska**. On the door of the bar the owner posted a notice *'We do not serve Czechs'*. When the journalist tried to order a meal, the staff informed him that, as per the notice, he would not be served. According to media reports, the owner of the bar is an employee of the Turow lignite mine, which has become the subject of a conflict between Poland and the Czech Republic. The latter country demanded compensation from the Polish side due to the degrading impact of the mine on the environment. As a result of the Czech Republic's claim to the Court of

Justice of the European Union, Poland was imposed a periodic penalty payment of 500,000 EUR a day. The xenophobic behavior of the owner of the premises was the aftermath of the political crisis in Polish-Czech relations.

GRODZISK WIELKOPOLSKI. On 25 September during the top flight match between Warta Poznan and **Zaglebie Lubin**, visiting hooligans from Boleslawiec displayed a banner with a Celtic cross (an international racism symbol).



BIELSKO-BIALA. On 26 September during the second division football match **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** – Resovia Rzeszow, local hooligans displayed a banner which called for violence against ‘ideological enemies’. It depicted an often-used symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground. The banner included a slogan often used by neo-fascists, ‘*Good night left side*’.

TARNOW. On 26 September, one of the city residents informed the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association about the antisemitic and anti-Ukrainian slogans that were found on the gazebo building in the Jaskolka allotment gardens. The property owner placed the following inscriptions on the wall: ‘*Stay away, Banderites go home* [referring to **Stepan Bandera**, the leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists**, which led an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in Volhynia during 1943-44; in practice, ‘Banderite’ is an ethnic slur frequently used against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator’s note], *Jews-parasites, executioners*’, ‘*We are fighting for the Poland of **Konfederacja** [Confederation party]*’, ‘*Not Polin*’ [the word means Poland in Hebrew; according to the conspiracy theory, Polin is Poland appropriated by Jews – translator’s note] and a crossed out number 447 (reference to the so-called Act 447, adopted in 2018 in the US, which is falsely presented by supporters of the far right as an order for Poland to pay the alleged ‘Jewish claims’).

WARSAW. On 26 September in a broadcast on **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, a woman by the pseudonym **Maria** talked about her experience of living with her Muslim partner. The host **Pawel Jaworski** addressed his interlocutor, ‘*You have made young people, in fact all of us, aware of the dangers of Islam in a beautiful way. That it’s not a joke, they are not refugees, but people, who are very aware that they want to conquer this continent and give it to the devil. It has to be spoken about openly*’. The woman agreed with his statement and continued the Islamophobic discussion, ‘*Islam is Satan’s religion, I mean Satan’s sect, not even a religion. Because I don’t know what kind of a religion it would be that wants to deprive somebody of their life, deprive them of their senses*’.

WROCLAW. On or around the night of 27/28 September, ‘*unknown perpetrators*’ destroyed the offices of two Lewica (the Left party) Members of Parliament, Agnieszka Dziemianowicz-Bak and Krzysztof Smiszek. Smiszek issued a press statement: ‘*The office was drenched in red paint and covered in graffiti. The office signage was destroyed, the windows were damaged, and the façade was smeared*’. He also added, ‘*This is another attack on our parliamentary office in Wroclaw. Previously, as well as the office being covered with paint, various hideous things were stuck on the outside walls. This time I decided to notify the police because I think it is getting more and more*

dangerous. I understand that an investigation of an offence of damage to property will be carried out, but as we also have laws against hate speech based on political affiliation, I expect this incident as a whole to be taken very seriously’.

BIALA PODLASKA. On 29 September, Riad Haidar, a Koalicja Obywatelska (Civic Coalition, a major coalition of liberal parties, currently in opposition to the government) Member of Parliament and neonatologist, received racist death threats from an anonymous sender. The message, sent to the e-mail address of his parliamentary office, read: *‘Riad Haidar, you are about to explode. I’ll blow you up like people are blown up in Syria. If this fails, I will cut your head off, just like in the ISIS movies. I am watching you’.* In an interview with local media, the MP said, *‘I think these threats may have something to do with my origin [...]. I find it hard to find any other reason. This would fit in with a nationwide psychosis against immigrants. Unfortunately, many politicians do not think about the consequences of their own statements’.* He also added, *‘I often encounter hatred during election campaigns or after various media statements. Words saturated with hatred and manifestations of racism were uttered at me. But this is the first time I have encountered such threats’.* The police were notified of the incident. Doctor Riad Haidar comes from Syria, in 1972 he came to study medicine in Lublin, and in 1989 he obtained Polish citizenship. For many years he has been involved in the activities of Wielka Orkiestra Swiatecznej Pomocy (Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity, the biggest non-governmental charity organisation in Poland). In 2018, the Ecumenical Foundation Tolerance awarded him with the Meritorious for Tolerance medal for his social activities.

WARSZAWA. On 30 September before the Europa League match Legia Warszawa – Leicester City, hooligans from Warsaw displayed a huge flag which mocked the gesture of taking a knee by English players in support for Black Lives Matter. The banner included the words: *‘Kneel before his majesty’.* Moreover, when the Leicester players took a knee, as well as two Legia players – Filip Mladenovic and Andre Martins, hooligans from Warsaw booed them.

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GDANSK. On 3 October during the top flight match between **Lechia Gdansk** and Legia Warszawa the host club hooligans yet again hung a banner on the fence around the pitch, containing the image of **Janusz Walus** and words of support for him: *‘Nothing is going to break you, you are not alone!’* In 1993 in South Africa Walus murdered Chris Hani, an anti-apartheid leader.

WARSAW. On 4 October, far-right columnist **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** made an offensive statement about the co-founder of the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association, Prof. Rafal Pankowski, in an interview with **Slawomir Jastrzebowski**, the owner of the **Salon24** blog platform. Ziemkiewicz launched into the following tirade: *‘There are such powerful defamation centres in Poland, headed by Mr Pankowski, whom the former Ombudsman [Polish Ombudsman Adam Bodnar – translator’s note] considers his mentor. I watched such a session on the internet – every year the University of Jerusalem or Tel Aviv organises a session on antisemitism around the world. And it looked like that [...]Rafal Pankowski from Poland comes out and says that there is monstrous antisemitism in Poland [...] and the Polish government is not fighting it, because it is fascists who rule Poland. And everyone says this: [...]*

thank you Mr Pankowski, here, have a bag of silver coins and we invite you to visit us again next year'. Ziemkiewicz has been attacking Rafal Pankowski and the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association for many years. This time his statement was related to the incident on 2 October, when the British services refused him entry to Great Britain. He was detained at London Heathrow Airport and returned to Poland in accordance with British procedures to prevent radicals who promote extremist and racist ideologies from entering the country. In connection with this incident, Ziemkiewicz made false accusations against Rafal Pankowski.

Talking about his detention, Ziemkiewicz stressed that he was detained by men *'in turbans'* and that he was the only one who was *'white, not tanned, and everyone there had all the beauty of Uber drivers. Most of them could only say in languages known to me: «I refugee, Afghanistan» [sic!], although frankly they looked more like Africa'*. He also added, *'The first whites I saw, if it bears any significance, were the doormen who escorted me to the plane'*. Referring to the documents issued by the Home Office (Ministry of Internal Affairs), which outlined that the reason for his expulsion was related to his *'conduct and views which are at odds with British values and are likely to cause offence'*, Ziemkiewicz stated, *'To rob half of the world and say that this is a white man's mission – that actually [continues – ed.], but now it is the mission of the rainbow man'*.

Ziemkiewicz made also offensive comments about a Labour Member of Parliament Rupy Haq who in 2018 criticised his public statements about the Holocaust, Jews and Muslims and supported the demand that he not be allowed to stay in Great Britain. In an interview with Slawomir Jastrzebowski, Ziemkiewicz said about MP Haq, *'In terms of her face, she is not at all similar to anyone, but precisely because she is from Bangladesh, in contemporary England she can afford to say anything, I suspect. [...] It is evident [for her – ed.] that Poles are bad. She found a way to authenticate herself to the Jews – she is an antisemite for the benefit of her Muslim voters, and for the benefit of the Jews she is fighting antisemitism, because she is chasing a Polish antisemite and not letting him in'*.

OSWIECIM. On 5 October, antisemitic inscriptions were discovered in nine wooden barracks at the former Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum reported, *'Two references from the Old Testament, which are often used by antisemites, and slogans indicating [Holocaust- ed.] denial have come to our attention [...] This is an outrageous attack on the symbol of one of the greatest tragedies in human history'*.

POZNAN. On 5 October, Polish national and international referee **Lukasz Araszkiwicz** reacted in an insulting way to a press release about an online debate on fighting antisemitism and bigotry at stadiums in Poland and Europe, as held by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association. The debate took place on 4 October, with Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) and American Jewish Committee Central Europe (AJC) as partners. Araszkiwicz sent to 'NEVER AGAIN' the following email: *'In my 17 years as a referee I was never a witness to antisemitic actions, contrary to racist ones. It's another humbug spread by Jewish centres, and we all know what for. Please don't send me such invitations, because I totally disagree, the Jews are not a chosen nation, despite their hubris, while calling Polish people antisemites and talking about Polish concentration camps is the most heinous bullsh*t by the Jews after the war'*.

OLESNICA. On 6 October, one of the citizens of the town informed the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association about racist and antisemitic stickers which were placed on a bench in the Henryk Sienkiewicz Park by hooligans of **Slask Wroclaw**. The following slogans could be read on them: *‘Kill the Jew and the lefty’* and *‘No Israel, no problem’*, along with a crossed out flag of Israel, as well as *‘White power’* (an international slogan used by supporters of so-called supremacy of the white race) and Celtic cross symbols (indicating the so-called supremacy of the white race). Representatives of the Town Hall of Olesnica were informed about this and they ordered a cleaning company to remove the stickers from the bench.

WARSAW. On 6 October, in a broadcast on his YouTube channel **Tomasz Sommer**, editor-in-chief of the far-right biweekly journal **‘High Time!’** made false statements about the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association, *‘There are a couple of companies who specialise in denunciations – «NEVER AGAIN» and so on, and they do nothing else, but scroll through [internet – ed.] comments. What they don’t like – they denounce. They snitch to the Prosecutor’s Office; the Prosecutor’s Office makes us reveal who has done it. And when we do, they start attacking that person’* (in reality the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association has never been involved in such activities). Later, Sommer encouraged acts of aggression towards NGOs fighting racism and homophobia, *‘I’ve got an idea to establish an institution, which will harass these snitches. [...] We will slowly start to get rid of these censors, denunciators, all this leftist scum like lice. [...] There are a lot of people hurt by all these institutions, by these sodomite denunciators, by these anti-Polish blackmailers, and no one is getting to them’*. Sommer is connected to the political circles of MP **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** (well-known extremist and chauvinist) and is currently in close cooperation with the political parties **KORWiN** and **Konfederacja (Confederation party)**.

WARSAW. On 10 October, Member of European Parliament and the founder of the Campaign Against Homophobia Robert Biedron received an e-mail with homophobic motivated death threats. The sender appearing as **‘Janusz Kowalski’** wrote, *‘You will hang, you f*ggot f*cked in the ass – you Soviet wh*re and traitor of our Homeland, Poland. We will hang you like a dog [...]. You should have been hanged long ago, but now is the time to go away as a parasite, a thief, a f*ggot, a Soviet bandit’*. The letter was signed: *‘Organisation for liquidation of the enemies and traitors of the Republic of Poland’*.

WARSAW. On 11 October, in a conversation broadcast on **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, **Wojciech Sumlinski**, the director of the film **‘Return to Jedwabne’** which denies the responsibility of Poles for crimes committed against their Jewish neighbours in 1941, and co-author of a series of books under the same title, made antisemitic comments. In relation to the content of the film Sumlinski argued, *‘Ladies and gentlemen, don’t be afraid of the Jews. Don’t be afraid of the intimidation alleging that the film is antisemitic or scandalous. [...] It is simply the truth about the Jews, the Holocaust industry and about what the Jews have done to us for all these years’*. He added, *‘Here in Poland, the Jews have found a good place to live for centuries. Unfortunately, they have always paid us back with despicable behaviour and treason. [...] when we were invaded’*. Sumlinski also spread conspiracy theories, stating, *‘[Jews] are the kind of a nation that if they still don’t rule the world, they will certainly try to take control of the widely understood world’*. He continued, *‘So*

we are going to war against the Jews, and we are going to war against the liars and we will not stop this war until we get to the truth'. The premiere of Sumlinski's film, advertised with the slogan *'The Jewish partition of Poland'* has been cancelled in many cities across Poland.

ENGLAND. On 12 October during the try-outs to the World Cup between England and Hungary, there were incidents involving Polish hooligans, who took seats in the guest sector. Hungarian sports lawyer Zoltán Borbély described the incidents to Mandiner Sport: *'It all began when a Polish hooligan in the guest sector used racial slurs against one of the stewards. When the stewards tried to enter the sector, they were expelled by a group of mainly Polish hooligans'*. The police intervened. As a result, FIFA issued against the Hungarian Football Association a ban for Hungarian fans to participate in the following match of their national team (i.e. with Poland in Warsaw, on 15 November).

KIELCE. On 15 October, after the top flight match **Korona Kielce** – Widzew Lodz, there was a dangerous incident involving local hooligans. When Widzew players approached the stances to thank a group of disabled fans for their cheering, they were attacked by hooligans of Korona, who threw bottles and jugs at the players. Some of those items fell close to the disabled fans, who were given the sector just under the ultras of Korona [sic!]. Spokesperson of Korona Kielce published on Twitter the following: *'Considering the information I have received, I would like to apologise to the disabled fans of Widzew Lodz for this situation. We will analyse this case with the security and representatives of the disabled fans'*. Moreover, during the match the hooligans of Korona displayed a racist flag with the letters *'BHBD'* – standing for the lyrics by a neo-Nazi band **Konkwista 88**, *'Bialy honor, biala дума'* (*'White honour, white pride'*).

POLAND. On 15 October, on a YouTube channel called **Foot Truck Live**, the goalkeeper of the Polish national team **Wojciech Szczesny**, when asked about the *'naturalisation of players in the team'*, said the following: *'I was never bothered that someone with Polish roots wants to play in the national team. What did bother me, more as a fan, was when players who had nothing to do with Poland, like Olisadebe or Roger Guerreiro, played on the team just because they played well in the Polish league. This is something I'm not a fan of'*. Both hosts, Lukasz Wisniowski and Jakub Polkowski, supported him and said: *'I agree wholeheartedly with that'*.

Emmanuel Olisadebe was a Polish player who came from Nigeria, he played in the national team in 2000-2004. He was the first black-skinned player in the history of the Polish national team.

Roger Guerreiro was a Polish player who came from Brazil, he played in the national team in 2008-2011. Both players were victims of hate crimes from Polish hooligans, and both supported the **'NEVER AGAIN's 'Let's Kick Racism out of the Stadiums'** campaign.

JELEŃ GÓRA. On 16 October, during the fourth division football match between **Karkonosze Jelenia Góra** and Piast Zmigrod, local hooligan supporters displayed a flag on the fencing around the playing field, calling for ideologically motivated violence. It contained a characteristic graphic design representing a man kicking a person lying on the ground, along with a slogan saying: ‘*Good night left side*’, which is popular among neo-fascist groups. Moreover, the flag contained a picture of a **Ku-Klux-Klan** member and symbols of the Celtic cross, which means so-called the ‘*white power*’.



RADOM. On 16 October during a fourth division football match between **Bron Radom** and Polonia Warszawa the host club hooligans displayed a banner depicting a Celtic cross – an international racist symbol.

RZEPIN. On 16 October during a fifth division football match between Ilanka Rzepin and **Stilon Gorzów Wielkopolski** ‘fans’ of the visiting club were displaying a **Confederate** flag (it was used during the American Civil War by the Southern states fighting to preserve slavery, in contemporary context it is a symbol of supremacy of the so-called white race).



TARNÓW. On 16 October during the fourth division match Unia Tarnów – **Wisłoka Debica**, some visiting hooligans wore scarves with the Celtic cross, a symbol of the so-called ‘*white power*’.

RADOM. On 20 October, the media reported that **Milosz Kozak**, a player for the top flight Radomiak Radom club, had permitted himself racist behaviour towards players from his own team, who were originally from Portugal and Brazil. He insulted them because of his own bias and made them understand that he ‘*did not like the choice that the coach had made*’. According to media reports, Kozak would not shake hands with an employee of the club who hailed from Moldova and who carried out the transfers of the Portuguese and Brazilian players to the Radomiak club. In November, Kozak’s contract was terminated by mutual consent.

PODLASIE. On 20 October, representatives of the far-right group **Autonomiczni Nacjonalisci (Autonomous Nationalists)** posted a report on the leaflet campaign carried out in Podlasie region

(no specific towns were indicated) on their website **Autonom.pl**. Activists handed out racist brochures entitled 'Stop Immigration' to residents. Their content fuelled feelings of hostility towards refugees from Africa and Asia residing on the Polish-Belarusian border. They contained the following statements: *'The eastern border is flooded with ethnically and culturally alien immigrants from Afghanistan and Asia. [...] The admission of culturally alien immigrants will end in situations we see in Western Europe – attacks, rapes, and beatings occur there on a daily basis'*, and *'Do you want any of your relatives to be raped, beaten, or robbed? Do you want to be blocked from earning more or be fired from your job in favour of a cheaper immigrant?!'* In addition, the leaflets showed a drawing of men making the Nazi salute. They also included the addresses of the **Autonom.pl** website and of a far-right group **Szturmowcy (Stormtroopers)**.



LODZ. On 24 October during the second division derby match between **Widzew Lodz** and **LKS Lodz** the hooligans of the visiting club displayed the banner with the name **'Terrormachine'** written on it (a group connected to **Combat 18** – British neo-Nazi terrorist organisation. The numbers 1 and 8 are used as a coded abbreviation for **Adolf Hitler** –with A and H being the 1st and 8th letter of the alphabet) and with the symbol of a white fist on the broken shield (contemporary racist symbol, during World War II it was used by **Waffen-SS**). Some of the **Widzew** 'fans' in turn displayed scarves with the depictions of the Celtic cross, a symbol of the so-called *'white power'*.

WARSAW. On 26 October, Mattias Johansson, a Swedish-born player for Legia Warszawa, in an interview with the *'SportExpressen'* daily, accused the coach **Czesław Michniewicz** (who had been relieved of his position by the club authority the previous day) that in his behaviour he was guided by national bias. Johansson said: *'The coach called me «Swedish tourist» when I suffered an injury. He also called me «Ikea»* [the well-known furniture company, established in Sweden in 1943 – translator's note]. Moreover, according to Johansson, the decision of the coach to suspend him, as well as Jurgen Celhaki, Lindsay Rose and Lirim Kastrati for the away match Legia vs. Piast Gliwice team (played on 24 October), was motivated by the same bias. The Swedish player said: *'He [Michniewicz] was looking for scapegoats and he pointed to us because we were foreigners. [...] We were accused without cause'*. On 31 January, 2022 Michniewicz became the new head coach of the Polish national football team.

OLSZTYN. On 27 October, **Piotr Lisiecki**, the leader of **Ruch Narodowy (National Movement**, a far-right organisation) in Warmia and Mazury region, posted a comment on Twitter in which he expressed his support for shooting at refugees from the Middle East and Africa staying on the Polish-Belarusian border. He stated, *'We will spend 1.5 billion PLN on the border wall, because no one has the courage to spend 1.5 PLN on the 7.62 cartridge on the border. This is the indicator of the fall of*

Europe'. In 2019, Lisiecki was a **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party candidate in the European Parliament elections (he was not elected).

WARSAW. On the night of 29/30 October, in front of the club on the Malachowski Square a group of bandits brutally beat seven young Italians. As was reported in the daily *'La Nazione'* in Florence, Italy, *'They were beaten until they all fell to the ground because of their injuries'*. Three victims were hospitalised, one of them had a broken cheekbone (he was in danger of losing an eye) and a leg, and another had an internal haemorrhage. In a statement for the media, the boy who sustained the most serious injuries reported, *'It looks like we were attacked only because we are Italians, because we spoke a foreign language'*. The victims (all twenty-year-olds) are residents of Scandicci in Tuscany, who came to visit friends staying in Poland as part of the Erasmus exchange program. According to the information provided by the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw, still no charges were presented in this case over three months after the attack.

WARSAW. On 30 October, TVP *'Wiadomosci'* (main news programme on the main public TV channel) broadcast a material full of falsifications about migrants in Europe, in which... a recording from the set of the Swedish crime series *'Snabbcash'* (produced by Netflix) was used as the alleged source of information. It depicted a shooting in the street. The voiceover commented on this scene, taken from the series, as if it were showing real events, *'This is a recording from one of the Swedish cities. The attackers ride up on motorcycles and open machine gun fire. Then they quietly ride away. Similar situations in many places across Europe are almost commonplace'*. Then a comment was made by **Jakub Maciejewski**, a columnist for the far-right weekly magazine *'Sieci'*, who stated, *'the number of external migrants threatens social stability and security'*. The material also mentions the terrorist attacks in Nice, Berlin, and Brussels, and the voiceover – contrary to the facts – assures, *'The perpetrators of these attacks came to Europe as refugees'* (meanwhile, many of the attackers were born in the countries where the attacks were carried out). Moreover – again contrary to reality – migrants were accused of increase in crime, including rape (while according to official government data, crime in Sweden has remained at the same level for many years). The material by **Jakub Krzyzak** and **Piotr Glinicki** was entitled **'Illegal migration paralyzes Europe'**. It was one of the many xenophobic 'news' broadcast on TVP *'Wiadomosci'*.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 31 October during the second division football match **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** – Chrobry Glogow, local hooligans displayed a banner which called for violence against 'ideological enemies'. It depicts a symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with a slogan often used by neo-fascists, *'Good night left side'*.

POLAND. On 31 October, calls for murder of the former Ombudsman, Prof. Adam Bodnar, appeared on Twitter. One of the users, using the nickname **Bogdan**, wrote, *'Motherf*ckers like Bodnar should be thoroughly f*cked and then like a muck he is – thrown the f*ck out of Poland. If he tries to come back, he should be shot in the head for betraying Poland, right on the border'*. This post was followed by comments expressing support, *'And this is the only correct method of dealing with the riffraff'*. Another user, using the nickname **Wlodek**, posted an image including a photo of a document from 1946 – a death sentence *'for high treason'* signed by **Jozef Kuras** aka **'Ogien'** (he had commanded

the partisan unit 'Blyskawica' that fought with the communist authorities after World War II, and was also accused of crimes against the civilian population). The image also contained an internet comment: *'Seventy years ago, those who had betrayed Poland were receiving such notes'*. The user Wlodek posted the following entry underneath: *'Receiver Bodnar, tusk, trzaskowski'* (original spelling). [Donald Tusk is a former President of the European Council, former Prime Minister of Poland, and current leader of the Platforma Obywatelska – Civic Platform opposition party; Rafal Trzaskowski is the current Mayor of Warsaw – translator's note].

WARSAWA. On 31 October during the top flight match **Legia Warszawa** – Pogon Szczecin, local hooligans displayed a flag with support for **Janusz Walus**, who was serving life in South Africa for a racist murder [on parole since December 2022 – translator's note]. It depicted the image of Walus and the words, in English, *'Stay strong, brother'*. Janusz Walus migrated to South Africa and joined a terrorist organisation **Afrikaner Resistance Movement**; in 1993 he murdered Chris Hani, a South African anti-apartheid leader. Walus never expressed any remorse.

MILICZ. At the end of October, the police were informed that someone had painted fascist symbols on the building of the railway station in Milicz (a town in Lower Silesian Voivodeship), and also on the railway bridge in the nearby village Slawoszowice. As stated in the press release, these were *'marks identifying German WWII military units'*. On 25 November, the police detained a resident of Ostrow Wielkopolski who was charged with publicly promoting fascist ideology. It turned out that the man had a history of having committed similar crimes.

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PILZNO. On 6 November during the fifth division football match between Legion Pilzno and **JKS Jaroslaw**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner which called for violence against 'ideological enemies'. It depicts a symbol of a man hitting his opponent on the ground, along with a slogan often used by neo-fascists, *'Good night left side'*.

KRAKOW. On 7 November, during the top flight football derby match between **Wisla Krakow** and



Cracovia Krakow, local hooligan supporters displayed a banner with antisemitic content on the fencing around the playing field. It portrayed a stereotype and contemptuous figure of a Jew, holding in his hands a wad of dollars. This banner was aimed against the supporters of

Cracovia. For many years, the football hooligans have used anti-Jewish insults in stadiums, because it considers them to be particularly offensive.

RZESZOW. On 7 November during the second division football match between **Resovia Rzeszow** and Gornik Polkowice, local hooligans displayed a flag stylized to the logo of **Blood and Honour**, an international neo-Nazi organisation. This name is a reference to the motto of **Hitlerjugend**, *'Blut und Ehre'*.

WROCLAW. On 7 November, on the Solny Square supporters of the far right disrupted the commemoration of the Jews murdered in 1938 during the pogrom known as Kristallnacht. In response to the message of the March for Mutual Respect, counter-demonstrators uttered hateful (mainly Islamophobic) slogans in reference to the humanitarian crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border. They chanted, *'Poland for Poles'* and *'Refugees get the f*ck out'*. They also displayed banners with the slogans: *'F*ck refugees'*, *'Bombs in Paris, bombs in Brussels. They have Allah because they did not want the cross'*, and *'Electric fence urgently needed on the border'*. Police officers intervened and cordoned off the assembled nationalists.

MILEJCZYCE. On 9 November, in Milejczyce, a small village in Siemiatycze County, someone deflated three tyres of an ambulance belonging to Medycy na Granicy, a group of trained medics, who since August 2021 have been providing humanitarian aid to the refugees on the Polish-Belarusian border. Volunteers posted the following account of the incident: *'Returning from the forest after a rescue operation, we found armed people in uniforms next to our ambulance which had had its tyres deflated. The armed men and one woman walked away when they saw us. Their car registration began with the letters «UA» – these are plates used by the Polish Army. [...] State officials did not provide their names, nor did they display any insignia indicating their function. We are outraged and shocked'*.

On 14 November, in **SWINOROJE** village near Narewka *'unknown perpetrators'* destroyed five cars belonging to Medycy na Granicy Group activists. The cars had windows and lights broken, car body destroyed, and tyres deflated. Due to this attack the Group has concluded their activities at the Polish-Belarusian border. Its members had completed 39 shifts, had helped almost 300 people, a dozen of whom had been transported to hospitals in life threatening condition. In their statement they said, *'We are sorry that the help we have been bringing was met with such an aggressive and brutal reaction'*. The regional police were informed about the incident. The officers arrested two men and a woman (from Białystok, connected with hooligan groups) and charged them with destruction of property. In May 2022 the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Hajnowka issued an indictment against them to the District Court in Bielsk Podlaski – 7th Local Criminal Division in Hajnowka.

WARSAW. On 10 November, in a programme broadcast by **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, **Marcin Rola** expressed his views about the situation on the Polish-Belarusian border, employing, in a manipulative manner, themes related to World War II and the Holocaust. Rola said, *'And what is more important, Mr. Morawiecki [Prime Minister]? The Jewish [national interest – ed.]? Russian? Maybe German? [...] «Polish death camps» – this is our thanks for saving Jews, the greatest number of Jews, nobody saved as many as we did. And today they spit on us, vomit on us, call us antisemites, proclaim that we created Holocaust'*. In the context of arguments related to the migrants being held in custody at the border, Rola also spread a xenophobic vision of the alleged danger they pose, *'Either 30,000 of them come and rape your wife or they abduct your child for human trafficking'*.

HAJNOWKA. On 11 November, on the Polish Independence Day, on the edge of the Białowieża Forest close to the Polish-Belarusian border three unidentified perpetrators attacked three refugees: a

married couple from Iraq and a Syrian. The bandits severely beat the men with a metal crowbar, and they also hit one of them on the head with this tool. They ripped off some of the woman's clothes. The victims were found on the road from Narewka to Hajnowka by volunteers of the Grupa Granica (Border Group) which provides humanitarian aid to refugees, and so the attack was reported to the police. The most severely beaten Iraqi was hospitalised, and his wife and the Syrian citizen were transported to a Border Guard post. As reported by Grupa Granica, all three of them applied for refugee status in Poland. The activists also said that this was *'the first documented [by them] case of such aggression against migrants in the border area'*.

KALISZ. On 11 November, on Polish Independence Day, an extremely antisemitic demonstration was held in the city, organised by **Wojciech Olszanski** aka **Aleksander Jablonowski** and **Marcin Osadowski**. Olszanski said to the assembled participants, *'LGBTs, pederasts and Zionists are the enemies of Poland. Get out of our country! Off to Brussels!'* He apologised to his supporters for not joining the Citizens' Militia [meaning the police during the communist regime in Poland – translator's note] and waved a truncheon taken off his belt explaining, *'If I had, then I could have smashed the KOR [Workers Defence Committee – Polish civil society group established to aid prisoners and their families after the June 1976 protests and government crackdown – translator's note] riffraff with this stick!'* During his speech, he announced he was about to burn the Statute of Kalisz, a document from 1264 setting out the legislation introduced by King Boleslaw the Pious, regulating the legal status of Jews in Poland. This law has become the symbol of safety and personal freedom of Jews. Olszanski claimed, *'The Jews in Poland are masters, and we are their slaves. Jews have always fraternised with the occupiers. [...] We shall abolish Jewish rights in this land forever and ever, Amen'*. He later said, *'A Pole will never again be a slave to a Jew'*. In response, the gathered crowd exclaimed, *'Death to the Jews!'* Osadowski impaled a copy of the Statute book on a spear, then poured flammable liquid over it and set it on fire. The crowd chanted, *'It's Poland here, not Polin!'* [Polin in Hebrew means Poland. In this antisemitic context, 'Polin' should be understood as a Jewish state created after taking over of Poland – translator's note]. After the Kalisz Statute copy had been burned Olszanski declared, *'We are free from the Jewish lies'*, and repeatedly chanted, *'Death to the enemies of Poland'*, to which the crowd replied, *'Death!'* At the end of the speech Olszanski exclaimed, *'Seek all similar documents, seek all such statutes wherever you are, and throw them into the fire!'* and *'Poland for Poles'*.

During the demonstration, **Piotr Rybak**, a man convicted in 2017 for public incitement of national hatred, made a speech which included the following: *'Who is it that represents us in the Sejm [lower chamber of Polish Parliament – translator's note], that represents us in the Senate, that represents us in the government? [...] These Polish-speaking people from Israel are working against the interests of the Polish nation. They hide their real names. We, Poles, cannot allow them to dominate our country'*. He also encouraged, *'If we unite, we will win and we will chase this Polish-speaking mob to Israel, as we did in 1968'* [reference to expulsion of Polish Jews by the communist government in 1968 – translator's note].

Moreover, the participants of the demonstration displayed banners with the slogan *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'*, with a crossed out seven-branched Jewish menorah candlestick and the so-called sign of the black sun (used by the Nazis during World War II).

Since neither the city authorities nor the police took action to dissolve this assembly, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Warsaw, the American Jewish Committee (AJC), the Jewish Association Czulent, and the Chief Rabbi of the Republic of Poland Michael Schudrich submitted a formal notification to the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Ostrow Wielkopolski that a criminal offence might have been committed. On 3 January 2023 the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Sieradz, handling the case, issued a statement that the investigation in this case has been discontinued.

The events during this demonstration were widely commented on in the domestic and foreign media. In response to this condemnation, on 13 November, Wojciech Olszanski made an online broadcast from Kalisz, during which he made further antisemitic statements, *'What would these lefty c*nts do without our march? These are Jewish bum suckers. They kick and rebel and get indignant. You want war? You will have it'*, and *'Poland for Poles! Death to the enemies of Poland!'* Olszanski then addressed **Robert Winnicki** (a **Konfederacja – Confederation** party Member of Parliament) by whom he had also been criticised, *'You smell a bit Jewish, Winnicki. A typically Jewish response'*.

On 15 November, Olszanski, Osadowski and Rybak were arrested. They were charged with three offences: public incitement of hatred on the basis of national differences, insulting a group of people based on their national and religious affiliation, and public incitement to commit crimes based on national and religious affiliation. The court placed them in pre-trial detention for three months. On 30 November, the Kalisz Regional Court agreed to release Olszanski, Osadowski and Rybak on bail.

On 4 December, one day after their release, Olszanski and Osadowski broadcast another extremely antisemitic programme live on **Niezależna Polska TV (NPTV, Independent Poland TV)** channel on YouTube. They started with a song, which included the following lyrics: *'Let all the Jews f*ck off out of Poland'*. Olszanski then addressed Michael Schudrich, the Chief Rabbi of Poland, *'Schudrich, stay the f*ck away from the Kalisz Police Commander. Sod off, Jew!'* Osadowski added, *'You, a chief? A rabbi of some k*kes in Poland?'* The two men alleged that during their questioning, the Kalisz Prosecutors received orders from higher powers. Olszanski said, *'Probably some jerk Schudrich was there at the other end of the [phone] cable'*, and complained, *'Three months of clink simply because they have to obey orders from Tel Aviv'*. He also directed threats against a TVN (major independent channel) journalist who was reporting his arrest in the media, *'Such tuberculosis rot! You will always say what your master f*cked in the a*se by a Jewish f*ggot tells you to say. I will find you and tell you everything and anything I want, and I will speak with the speed of a machine gun. You f*cking TVN c*nt'*. During the broadcast, Olszanski bragged about the burning of the Kalisz Statute, alleging that the document was created because *'that Jewish ruffraff bribed those c*nts on the royal seats'*. He also stated, *'If I discovered but a drop of Jewish blood in me, I would have to kill myself'*.

On 6 December, Olszanski and Osadowski were live again on Niezalezna Polska TV channel on YouTube. They praised what had happened during the demonstration in Kalisz. In his comments Olszanski referred to the conspiracy theory that the Jews rule in Poland, *'We burned the Kalisz Statute, we revealed to everyone in Poland the real foundations for establishing the Polin State'* [the word 'Polin' means Poland in Hebrew; antisemitic conspiracy theory name, according to which 'Polin' would be a Jewish state formed after overtaking Poland – translator's note]. During the broadcast, both men attacked Dr. Anna Tatar from the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, who, on 30 November, at a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee for National and Ethnic Minorities drew attention to the extremely antisemitic content Olszanski has been publishing for years on YouTube with total immunity. Olszanski addressed her directly, *'Ms Tatar from the «NEVER AGAIN» organisation has analysed me. Yet, Ms Tatar, you pass your sentences and that's it, you little c*nt'*. Osadowski added, *'Our preference is to pursue anti-Polishness'*, and Olszanski threatened, *'Ms Tatar, you speak Polish: no more attacks on Poland, no more anti-Polishness!'*

WARSAW. On 11 November, Poland's Independence Day, once again the so-called Independence March was organised in the capital city by **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci (March of Independence Association)** led by **Robert Bakiewicz**. The march was attended by representatives of far-right organisations: **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)**, **Mlodziez Wszepolska (All-Polish Youth)**, **Stowarzyszenie na rzecz Tradycji i Kultury Niklot (Association for Tradition and Culture Niklot)**, **Autonomiczni Nacjonalisci (Autonomous Nationalists)**, and Polish football hooligans. The leader of Hungarian far-right party **Our Homeland Movement Lászlo Toroczkai** and members of Italian neo-fascist **Forza Nuova** also joined the events. During the march, participants displayed racist banners proclaiming, *'It's ok to stay white'*, and flags containing the symbol of the Celtic cross (indicating the so-called supremacy of the white race), with some participants also wearing balaclavas and scarves with this same sign. Other banners featured slogans such as the Islamophobic *'Immigrants today, terrorists tomorrow'*, *'This is Poland, not Polin'* [the word means Poland in Hebrew; for the extreme right it has become synonymous with the alleged rule of the Jews over Poland – translator's note], *'The Volksdeutsche and the red plague [communists – translator's note] – get out of Poland'*, and *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'*. The last two slogans are extremely nationalistic and encourage ideological aggression. The marchers chanted, *'Poland must be all white'*, *'F*ck the N*gro, Legia Warsaw – a white team'*, *'We want no mosques and no synagogues'*, and *'This is Poland, not Brussels, perverts are not accepted'*. Other chants were antisemitic, such as: *'No wars to be fought for Israel'*, and anti-American, including: *'USA – the centre of all evil'* and *'F*ck Biden'*. Some protesters wore sweatshirts with messages encouraging violence, namely a characteristic graphic depicting an attacker kicking a man lying on the ground, with the slogan *'Good night left side'*, which is popular among neo-fascists.

Participants of the march also burned a photo of Donald Tusk, former President of the European Council, and a German flag. They shouted, *'The fascist rag is on fire!'* and *'Burn the Jewish swarm'*. The Warsaw I District Police Headquarters initiated proceedings relating to both of these incidents. The offence investigated was careless handling of explosives, disturbing public order, and littering public places, however no action was taken in relation to the burning of a German flag.

During the march, Robert Bakiewicz delivered a bizarre, xenophobic speech, saying, *'We are under attack from Germany which uses EU institutions in order to take away our sovereignty. [...] We are at war. This war is not only the one on the border, and the less visible one with Germany and with the European Union, but there is also a war of civilisations'*. Bakiewicz stated that the Germans wanted to *'make sure that we kill unborn children'* and to *'take our national, cultural, and even gender identity from us'*.

Robert Winnicki, a **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament and the leader of **Ruch Narodowy (National Movement)**, was among the speakers at the march. Winnicki referred to the situation on the Polish-Belarusian border (where since August 2021 refugees have been held in appalling conditions) saying, *'If need be, the Polish army has to shoot'*. Winnicki also shouted, *'Poland for Poles'*.

In October 2021, the Mayor of Warsaw Rafal Trzaskowski lodged an appeal with the Warsaw Regional Court against the decision made by the Masovian Voivodeship to recognise the Independence March as a cyclical assembly for three years from 2021 to 2023 [This decision allowed the march to take place without receiving prior permission from local authorities – translator's note]. The Warsaw Regional Court accepted the Mayor's appeal and annulled the Voivodeship's decision, a ruling which was then upheld by the Court of Appeal. However, the Head of the Office for Veterans and Victims of Oppression **Jozef Kasprzyk** ultimately decided to grant the Independence March the status of a state ceremony.

RZESZOW. On 12 November during the second division football match between **Resovia Rzeszow** and Odra Opole, local hooligans yet again displayed a banner with the slogan *'Blood and Honour'*. It was the motto of **Hitlerjugend** (*'Blut und Ehre'*) and nowadays is used by the international neo-Nazi organisation, **Blood and Honour**.

WARSAW. On 12 November, in a programme broadcast on **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** condemned the Member of Parliament Iwona Hartwich, who appealed for humanitarian treatment of the refugees held at the Polish-Belarusian border. Luksza said, *'You want to admit terrorists, murderers, who will shoot at Poles? [...] So what should be done? If not shoot in self-defence? Shoot! That's it'*.

WARSAW. On 15 November, on **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, members of the far-right group **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All Polish Youth)** **Mateusz Plawski** and **Mateusz Marzoch** made xenophobic comments about the refugee crisis happening on the Polish-Belarusian border. In an interview conducted by **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** they discussed the alleged danger posed by the refugees. Using the Islamophobic rhetoric operationalised by the far-right for years Plawski claimed, *'To the dangers I would add the issue of their connection to organised crime and terrorist organisations. [...] A lot of them are connected to terrorists, and those who aren't, constitute a cultural danger as well'*.

WARSAW. On 15 November, in a programme broadcast on **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** again made contemptuous comments on the refugees on Poland's border with Belarus. He said, *'This is simply a horde of savages and that's it'*. He cited an article by

Agnieszka Siewiereniuk, published on 9 November in *'Kurier Poranny'* daily newspaper, in which the author described alleged incidents in medical establishments involving patients brought there by the border services. The press article began with the following accusations: *'Throwing food, smashing plates, a son who beat up his own mother – this is only part of the illegal migrants' behavior observed by employees of borderland hospitals'*. The author, however, did not indicate any specific hospital where such incidents were supposedly taking place, nor did she name any of her interlocutors. In her text Siewiereniuk quotes anonymous statements, said to be comments from hospital employees, such as, *'Let me put it like this. These people have no respect at all for the fact that we want to help them. Agreed, when they come to us, it always starts the same. They show what hurts them and where, where they are wounded, some of them moan or pretend to be almost dying'*. In December 2018, Siewiereniuk lost a legal case in the Supreme Court against a foundation combatting racism due to texts she published on the webpage of *'Dzien Dobry Bialystok* [*'Good Morning Bialystok'* – Bialystok is a city in north-eastern Poland – translator's note]. The Court ordered Siewiereniuk to apologise to the foundation for *'smearing its good name'*. Since March 2021, *'Kurier Poranny'* has been owned by Polish crude oil company Orlen whose majority shareholder is Polish state.

WARSAW. On 15 November, **TV Republika (Republic TV)**, a far-right TV and YouTube channel commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** made aggressive comments regarding an appeal made by the Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki, Chairman of the Polish Bishops' Conference, to carry out a nationwide fundraiser to help refugees on the border between Poland and Belarus. The funds raised were to be used to *'finance relief actions on the borderlands during the refugee crisis, as well as to assist in the process of long-term integration for those refugees who decide to stay in Poland'*. Ziemkiewicz called the fundraiser *'scandalous'* and referred to the refugees as *'hordes of invaders, against whom the Polish Border Guard has to fight'*. In line with conspiracy theories, he called on people not to render any humanitarian aid to the refugees, *'If [...] some kind of an idiot finds them in this forest, tends to their wounds, clothes them and does not let them die, then more of them will come here'*. Ziemkiewicz concluded his argument with a threat to the bishops, *'During the course of our history, there have been bishops who ended up very badly for making friends with Poland's enemies, for making friends with traitors in Targowica'* [this was a reference to the betrayal of Poland to Russia in 1792 by a confederacy in the town of Targowica which to this day is considered a symbol of treason; in 1794, supporters of the Targowica Confederacy, including bishops, were executed by hanging – translator's note].

KRAKOW. Probably on the night of 15/16 November, at the Rakowicki Cemetery *'unknown perpetrators'* devastated the Stuhr family tomb. On the tombstone, they placed offensive inscriptions aimed at Maciej Stuhr: *'Murderer of Poles'* and *'M. Stuhr Putin's agent'*. The police were notified of the incident. Maciej Stuhr is an actor, director, and screenwriter, known for his social activities and involvement in defending minority rights. For his role in the film *'Poklosie'* (*'Aftermath'*, 2012) and participation in the debate on Polish-Jewish relations he is often harassed on antisemitic grounds. In 2020, together with his wife Katarzyna Blazejewska-Stuhr, they welcomed a family of Chechen refugees into their home: a single mother raising her son. In turn, at the beginning of November 2021, the Stuhrs went to Hajnowka and engaged in humanitarian aid

for refugees on the Polish-Belarusian border. M. Stuhr's public statements about the dramatic situation of these people were met with hateful reactions from the far right. For example, a right-wing **wpolityce.pl** portal published an article on 14 November in which the actor's actions were considered 'attacks' on Border Guard officers. Many insulting comments appeared under this text, including threats of death or beating. Here are examples of such comments: *'during the [German] occupation, he would have been a volksdeutsch, he would be servicing the germans without hesitation, I feel like puking...'*, *'If I had tracked his car, I SWEAR, I would have dragged out this piece of garbage and DO IT, there on the street...'*, *'Catch this anti-Polish rubbish, shave their heads, tar and feathers, and then leave them on the border to scare the P*ki-invaders'*, *'SHAME, YOU BOOR, I WISH DEATH TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!!!'*, *'PEST CONTROL MUST BE STARTED, BECAUSE THESE RATS SUPPORT THE K*TSAPS, LUKASHENKO AND PUTIN'*, *'This Stuhr-rat [play on words: 'szczur' is 'rat' in Polish – translation's note] is exceptionally malignant. A typical, loving Poland and Poles, 7yd [graphic equivalent of the word 'Jew' in Polish], 'Rats are pests and are caught in snares. They transmit diseases', 'When the state is in danger, there is a paragraph in the law against such lice. From spreading defeatism to betrayal', 'And I saw a DEAD RAT on the border, it was similar to that from Krakow' [original spelling of the comments suggests lack of respect – translator's note].*

WROCLAW. On 17 November, **Artur Dziambor**, a **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament and the Deputy Head of the **KORWIN** party (headed at the time by a well-known eccentric extremist and chauvinist, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**), uploaded a racist poster on Twitter which announced a shooting tournament with the participation of the politician. In the image, Dziambor posed with a machine gun (with his finger on the trigger) against the background of the **Confederate** flag, which was used during the American Civil War by the southern states fighting to maintain slavery and is now considered a symbol of racial discrimination. Under the MP's entry, there were many critical comments, ridiculing the content he propagated, including one from the Lewica (the Left) MP Anna Maria Zukowska who wrote, *'gmm pistol shooting tournament, but there's an AK-47 in the photo because the pistol is not macho enough? What are you going to shoot? Abraham Lincoln's portraits?'* Examples of similarly voiced comments include: *'Confederate Flag? Seriously? Ku-Klux-Klan symbols or the swastika next?'*, *'All in all, it's an honest admission that the MP is a fan of the slavery regime'*, and *'Will you fight in favour of slavery?'*

WARSAW. On 18 November, far-right commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** broadcast a video on his YouTube channel in which he discussed a wildly antisemitic march organised in Kalisz by **Wojciech Olszanski** and **Marcin Osadowski** (criminal court has put them in a 3-month long pre-trial detention for public incitement of hatred on the grounds of nationality) on 11 November. The events that took place during this march were discussed both in national and international media outlets – this was mocked by Ziemkiewicz. He used the occasion to attack Prof. Rafal Pankowski, the founder of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, as follows: *'Polish authorities really have much more serious issues to deal with than some trivial instances that rarely take place in Poland. But how much money will now flow to Mr Pankowski, the Open Republic Association, and the «NEVER AGAIN» Association'*. A lot of antisemitic and violence-inciting comments were posted under the video, such as: *'Jews have now joined the eternal enemies of Poland (Germany and Russia),*

*with their claims and «false testimonies» – slander is their genetic tradition’, ‘What about Jewish anti-Polishness’, ‘why burn ersatz puppets, when we can burn the originals’ (this is a reference to the incident when **Piotr Rybak** burned a puppet of a Jew in 2017 in Wrocław, for which he was sentenced to imprisonment), ‘every k*ke is like a tick, it needs a feeder. Poles suit the role of a feeder’, ‘We have to stop playing the «we were the best for them» game with people who have hated us for thousands of years [sic!].’*

WARSAW. On 27 November, **Tomasz Stala** speaking on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube engaged in the promotion of an extremely antisemitic book by **Curzio Nitoglia**, titled **‘You Are of Your Father the Devil’**, released by the **3dom** publisher in the city of Czeszochowa, a company owned by Stala. The Italian author of the publication is known for his pro-Nazi sympathies. In the book, he claims that the Jews are a cursed people, whose symbol is Satan (thus all evil). He also promotes theories about a *‘Judeo-masonic conspiracy against the Church’* and he expresses his approval of *‘struggle against judeo-talmudic thought’*, portraying the Jews as enemies of Christianity and warning that Christianity is in danger of being *‘contaminated’* by Judaism. During the programme in the Media Narodowe, Stala stated that his publishing house released the book by Nitoglia, in order to *‘deliver to people the synthetic awareness about the fact that if the Jews betrayed Jesus, they are the sons of the devil’*. He introduced this publication as a *‘real compendium of knowledge [...], as regards Catholic-Jewish relations, beginning from the moment of Christ’s betrayal by the Jews, his killing, ritual murders, through successive historical periods, the teachings of the fathers of the Church, as well as contemporary times, in other words, the activity of freemasons and islamists [...] and of the question should our goal as Catholics be to convert the Jews or to confirm them in the false belief that we are all equal’*. Thus, Stala duplicated the traditional antisemitic accusations of the Jews, who across centuries were supposedly engaged in ritual murders on Christian children (such false accusations have often led to anti-Jewish pogroms). Further into the programme Stala delivered a shady conspiracy theory, in which he invoked the **‘Protocols of the Elders of Zion’** (well-known nineteenth-century antisemitic pamphlet which has been many times proven to be false in courts of law) saying that *‘the quintessence of all that is going on’* are *‘invented or not invented «Protocols of the Elders of Zion» which, whether made up or not still described the real situation how Jewish activities look like’*.

WARSAW. On 29 November, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, the far-right columnist **Wojciech Sumlinski** (co-author of the book series **‘Return to Jedwabne’**) propagated antisemitic conspiracy theories connected with the COVID-19 pandemic. According to him *‘what we have around us is a consciously released virus’*, while *‘the Gateses, Rockefellerers and the Rothschilds [...] are at the core of this madness’* (falsely, Sumlinski attributes Jewish roots to Bill Gates). In a later part of the programme, the author repeated his accusations: *‘all those threads lead to one national group of the Gateses, Rockefellerers and the Rothschilds, because it all [COVID-19 pandemic] began there’*. He also stated: *‘Let’s not get fooled that this is some kind of antisemitism. Telling the truth about the Jews is not antisemitism. These are facts. We do not advocate hatred. We only show facts – what the Jews do, and how much deceit, meanness and cynicism is contained in it’*.

DECEMBER 2021

LUBLIN. On 1 December during the 1/8 final football match of Polish Cup between **Motor Lublin** and Legia Warszawa, the local ‘fans’ displayed a huge banner with the **SS** motto on it: ‘*Our honour is loyalty*’ (orig. ‘*Meine Ehre heißt Treue*’), that was used during World War II. Motor’s hooligans have been using flags with such content on the stadiums for years without repercussions.

WROCLAW. On 3 December, the Zydoteka Foundation informed on Twitter about an antisemitic symbol that appeared on the premises of the city’s Main Railway Station. Someone painted a star of David hung on a gallows on one of the building’s pillars. The Wroclaw City Hall was informed about the incident and the inscription was removed.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 4 December during the second division football match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** and GKS Katowice the hooligans of the host club, linked to the far-right group **National Podbeskidzie (Narodowe Podbeskidzie)**, displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. It contained the slogan ‘*Good night left side*’ (used by neo-fascist milieu) and the characteristic symbol depicting a male kicking a lying human.

POZNAN. On 6 December, in the apartment building in the district of Piatkowo three people (two men and a woman, who was their relative) perpetrated a homophobic attack on their two female neighbours. One of the attackers told them that he ‘*had certain observations*’ and mentioned the rainbow-coloured flag (LGBT symbol) hanging from their balcony. One of the victims said, ‘*I was about to shut the door, when he spat in my face. After a whole year of harassment [crank calls through the building entrance intercom, strewing of rubbish outside the door – ed.] and this visit, which was evidently aimed at frightening us, he now spat in my face. I ran out the door after him and wanted to hit him, I don’t remember if I did that or not because I lost consciousness. I don’t know whether he shoved me or hit me, but my face was all beaten up*’. Her partner tried to defend herself from the aggressors with pepper spray, but one of the men held her back, while the other one tore the spray dispenser from her and sprayed it directly in the face of the unconscious woman. They stopped the attack when a woman came out of the neighbouring door. The police were notified of the incident.

POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDER. On 7 December, Grupa Granica (Border Group, involved in coordination of activists providing aid at the border) informed on Facebook that a four-year-old girl from Iraq had disappeared near the border town of Dubnica Kurpiowska (Sokolow County). The incident took place on the night of 6/7 December. A girl named Eileen crossed the Polish border with her parents and a group of adults. One of the migrants helped carry her in his arms because her parents were in poor physical condition. According to Grupa Granica, Border Guard officers took the girl’s parents back to Belarus, but the child was separated from them, and it was not known what happened to her. The activists published a statement on this matter: ‘*Although the guards were aware of the inhumane conditions in which the migrants were forced to camp on the Belarusian side, the girl’s family was not granted protection. The current weather conditions (at night the temperature drops to -11 degrees Celsius), the lack of assistance and the exposure of migrants to violence in Belarus pose direct threat to their health and life [...] It was through the actions of the*

Polish Border Guard officers that the young child was separated from the parents which resulted in the disappearance of the girl and her life being put at risk. On 8 December, the Ombudsman asked the Białystok Voivodeship Police Commander to join the search activities. The girl was not found. There were many xenophobic comments on this event in social media, the authors of some entries even questioned its factual nature. Here are some selected examples: *'They do everything to humiliate Polish soldiers and Poland – let everyone get the f*ck out back to their place'*, *'They could have sat on their a*s at home. They wanted some damn dole'*, *'Lukashenka gave them a nightmare and we're the ones defending our citizens. They better stay away from us'*, *'ATTENTION. I'll help you in your search: Eileen exists only in your imagination. Do not thank me'*, and *'Do this fundraising already. The faster you fill your pockets, the sooner you will stop fooling poles'* (original spelling). One of similar comments about the girl's disappearance was posted by an intern from the kindergarten of the Familia Education Centre in Katowice. She wrote, *'She is lost among her own? Let them finally go back to their place'*. The kindergarten was notified about the woman's post, and it ended cooperation with her.

OPOCZNO. On 9 December, in Moniuszko Street two attackers beat a man of Roma origin. When the 24-year-old was walking down the sidewalk, a car passing him suddenly stopped – the bandits ran out of it, shouting racist insults at the man and beating him all over his body. When he managed to get home, he called the police. The victim, with visible signs of beating, was taken to hospital. On the same day, officers from the Criminal Division of the County Police Headquarters in Opoczno identified and arrested both perpetrators. They were a 39-year-old father and his 18-year-old son. As stated in the press release, *'The evidence collected in the case, the CCTV footage, and the testimonies of the witnesses allowed to accuse the detainees of beating on the basis of ethnic discrimination'*.

WARSAW. On 9 December, on **Rodacy Kamraci (Comrades Compatriots)** YouTube channel far-right activists **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) and **Marcin Osadowski**, directed death threats at Members of Parliament who would support the introduction of mandatory vaccinations against COVID-19 for selected professional groups. Olszanski exclaimed that, *'You will not squeeze through! By voting this way, you are entering the category of enemies of the motherland. And we will kill the enemies of the motherland! You have a chance. You have a chance to stand for the truth and you have a chance to become the enemy'*. During the broadcast, Olszanski and Osadowski also praised the symbol of the Slavic swastika (often worn as a patch on their stylised uniforms) adding further threats: *'A wonderful five-pointed Polish swastika symbolising five elements – fire, water, air, earth and f*cking Slavic anger – that is us. You will pass to the side of the enemy, and we have a song for the enemies: Death to the enemies of the motherland! Death, death, death!'*

WARSAW. On 9 December during the group phase football match of Europa League between **Legia Warszawa** and Spartak Moscow, Warsaw's hooligans committed xenophobic acts. When the players



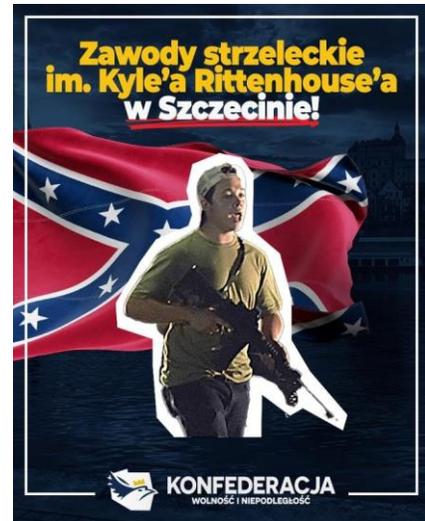
were entering the field, Legia's 'fans' performed on both tribunes a card stunt with a slogan: *'Out with the Russian wh*res'*. They were also chanting *'Russian wh*re'* and *'F*ck Russians'*. On 28 January, 2022 the UEFA's Control, Ethics

and Disciplinary Body imposed a fine of €17500 on the club from Warsaw for insulting banners which were displayed during the match.

WARSAW. On 11 December, far-right activist **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) made antisemitic statements during a video stream on his YouTube channel. One listener who called in during the broadcast said, *'Adam Naruszewicz, an Enlightenment historian, wrote of Jews that they were idle, they were reluctant to work, and that they deal mainly with usury [offering loans at extortionate rates – translator's note]'*. Olszanski appreciated her comment and added, *'[Boleslaw] the Pious was a very brave ruler, but even he did not resist them [Jews], he did not resist their clinking coin, he did not resist their bribery'*. In this way, Olszanski referenced the events of 11 November 2021 in Kalisz, where during an extremely antisemitic demonstration he and **Marcin Osadowski** burned a copy of the Statute of Kalisz, the document created in 1264 by Boleslaw the Pious, which became a symbol of safety and personal freedom of the Jews in Poland.

KSIAZENICE. On 12 December, after the top flight match Wisla Plock and Legia Warszawa teams, there ensued a brawl with the participation of hooligan supporters of the Warsaw team. In the vicinity of Legia's training centre, situated in the Grodzisk county town, a group of aggressors broke into the bus carrying the players home. The hooligans insulted the players, threatened them and used violent force against two foreign players: Mahir Emreli, originally from Azerbaijan and Luquinhas from Brazil were both hit on the head. Emreli's lawyer, Anil Dincer stated in an interview with media: *'Mahir was sitting in row 16 in the back of the bus. Why did the assailants not attack the players sitting in the forward seats and wounded only Emreli and Luquinhas? Why did nobody react?'* He also added: *'In my mind, the reason is the recent surge of racism in Poland. [...] Some role in this may be attributed to a growing trend of racism in Europe. Maybe this happened because Emreli is a Muslim'*. In February 2022, the Warsaw HQ of the police closed the case of the assault. A bizarre statement was issued on the subject: *'Witnesses were interrogated relative to the case. Among these persons, all indicated that they did not feel wronged. This ended the proceedings'*. Both Emreli and Luquinhas terminated their contracts with Legia and left Poland.

SZCZECIN. On 12 December, a local branch of **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party) organised a ‘**Kyle Rittenhouse** shooting competition’ (Kyle Rittenhouse shot two participants of Black Lives Matter protests on 25 August 2020 in Kenosha, Wisconsin). The poster announcing the competition contained an image of Rittenhouse with a machine gun and a **Confederate** flag, a symbol of racial discrimination (the flag was used by Southern states fighting to uphold slavery in the American Civil War). The poster was shared on the social media profile of a **Konfederacja** Member of Parliament **Artur Dziambor**. The competition’s participants used three types of weapons: a pistol, a machine gun, and a revolver.



TORUN. On the night of 13/14 December, in front of a pub on Szewska Street one of the inhabitants of the city attacked an Indian man. He foul-mouthed him and hit his face with his fists. The perpetrator was arrested. The District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Torun Centre-West accused **Filip W.** of attack based on nationality. The man pleaded guilty and agreed to willingly subject himself to punishment. On 11 May 2022, the Regional Court in Torun sentenced him to a 10-month restriction of freedom in the form of community work (at 20 hours monthly). Besides, the perpetrator was obligated to apologise to the aggrieved Indian man.

WARSAW. On 14 December, on the **Wataha Kamratow (Pack of Comrades)** YouTube channel, **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) made an antisemitic comment about the anniversary of the 1981 imposition of martial law in Poland. Olszanski stated, ‘*Polin* [the word means Poland in Hebrew; for the extreme right it has become synonymous with the alleged rule of the Jews over Poland – translator’s note] [...] *was built. Doesn’t Jaruzelski’s name come from Jerusalem?* [a word-play, Wojciech Jaruzelski was an army general and a political leader who served as Premier, Chairman of the Council of State and President during the final years of communist rule in Poland – translator’s note]. *Pigs are drawn to the trough. Jaruzelski gave his a*s to Rockefeller*’. Olszanski also presented this conspiracy theory at the end of his argument, ‘*I was twenty-one years old when they introduced martial law. I didn’t know everything, there was no internet. But I could smell it with my nose. You could smell the Jew! The Jew was foaming at the mouth, he was angry that his business was being pulled out from under his a*s*’. The video was followed by antisemitic and violent comments from viewers including: ‘*This is Poland, not Polin*’, ‘*Such names were given to converted Jews*’, ‘*Death to the enemies of the motherland*’, and ‘*We will smash the traitors*’.

WARSAW. On 14 December, a demonstration was held in front of the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament) against sanitary restrictions related to COVID-19, organised by the **Stop NOP** Association (striving to abolish compulsory vaccinations for children against infectious diseases), led by **Justyna Socha**, volunteer assistant of the **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) Member of Parliament **Grzegorz Braun** (who is known for disseminating antisemitic conspiracy theories). Participants of this gathering displayed a banner with an inscription ‘*Vaccination makes you free*’ which was designed to resemble the sign above the gate of the former Auschwitz concentration

camp *‘Arbeit macht frei’* (*‘Work makes you free’*). During the demonstration, MP’s from Konfederacja: Braun, as well as **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** (well-known extremist and chauvinist), **Artur Dziambor**, **Robert Winnicki** and **Konrad Berkowicz** spoke and posed against the background of this banner. A statement on this matter was issued by the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum: *‘[This inscription] is one of the icons of human hatred. The instrumentalisation of the symbol of suffering of the victims of Auschwitz – the largest cemetery in Poland and in the world – is a scandalous manifestation of moral corruption. It is especially embarrassing when Polish MPs do it’*.

In response to the words of condemnation from the Auschwitz Museum, on 15 December, Janusz Korwin-Mikke posted an image on Twitter in which he used the symbolism of the Auschwitz camp to mock vaccination against COVID-19. This illustration caricatured the barracks and the entrance gate with the inscription *‘Impfen macht frei’* (*‘The vaccine makes you free’*). The guards held syringes instead of weapons, and in the distance there was a stereotypical Chinese man and Bill Gates (a reference to conspiracy theories blaming the Chinese for the pandemic, and Gates – for chipping vaccinated people and seeking to take control over humanity). This image was provided by Korwin-Mikke with a commentary in which he considered anti-epidemic principles manifestation of genocidal actions and compared them with the Holocaust, *‘Of course there is a HUGE moral difference between the Holocaust, that is, a murder intentionally planned by **Henric** [sic!] **Himmler** – and the actions of today’s governments that kill out of stupidity. Nevertheless, the number of victims of the HECATOMB is already higher and the Museum is furious because it has dropped to the second place’* (original spelling).

In turn, on 15 December, in an interview with *‘Rzeczpospolita’* (nationwide daily) Konfederacja MP Artur Dziambor said that he did not regret his appearance at the demonstration under the *‘Vaccination makes you free’* banner. He referred to it, *‘The fact that the left-wing part of the internet is outraged and that they call me vile and so on, does not affect me much’* [sic!].

On 15 December, in front of the Sejm Justyna Socha’s Stop NOP Association again organised a demonstration against sanitary restrictions, during which participants displayed a banner with the inscription *‘Vaccination makes you free’*, designed to resemble the sign above the gate to Auschwitz. The assembly was attended by the members of Konfederacja Grzegorz Braun and Artur Dziambor.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 15 December during the top flight football match between **Rakow Czestochowa** and Gornik Zabrze, the ‘fans’ of the local club hung on the fence around the pitch a banner with the slogan *‘Free **Janusz Walus**’*. Walus was sentenced for life in South Africa for murdering in 1993 Chris Hani, a black politician and activist, fighting for abolishment of apartheid [on parole since December 2022 – translator’s note].

KETY. On 16 December, in this town located in the Oswiecim County supporters of anti-vaccination movements destroyed the fence around the property of Dorota Niedziela, member of Koalicja Obywatelska (Civic Coalition, a major coalition of liberal parties) and the Vice-President of Platforma Obywatelska (Civic Platform, a major liberal party). On the fence surrounding her house,

they wrote, *'This is where a traitor lives'*, and *'Stop sanitary segregation and vaccinations'*. This kind of blending of nationalist content with the denial of the COVID-19 pandemic is characteristic of the far-right circles. Since the beginning of 2020, their representatives have been promoting conspiracy theories about COVID-19 with the elements of xenophobia and antisemitism.

WARSAW. On 16 December, in front of Zacheta – The National Gallery of Art, **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) organised a rally in honour of **Eligiusz Niewiadomski**, a nationalist activist who, in this exact location in 1922, murdered the first Polish President Gabriel Narutowicz. At the rally Olszanski said, *'A Polish soldier – Eligiusz Niewiadomski – saved our homeland from the civil war. [...] With three shots, he stopped the shedding of Polish blood. The treacherously elected president of the Republic of Poland Narutowicz entered this building. He was an instrument in the hands of the freemasons, in the hands of Jewry, in the hands of enemies who could not bear the thought that Poland had been reborn. [...] They dreamed of a different state – a state with at least two parliaments – Polish and Jewish. They dreamed, as Niewiadomski wrote, of Judenia [sic!] or Judeopolonia. [...] This man [Niewiadomski] takes a gun, shows up in this building, in Zacheta, and kills the enemy with three well-aimed shots'*. At the end of his speech, Olszanski encouraged the audience to follow the example of Niewiadomski saying, *'This is the hero we follow. This is the man we have in our hearts'*. Participants of the rally, including **Bartosz Kurzeja** (known for antisemitism, and convicted of inciting hatred in 2020), chanted, *'Death to the enemies of the motherland!'* and *'This is Poland, not Polin!'* [the word means Poland in Hebrew; according to the conspiracy theory, Polin is Poland appropriated by Jews – translator's note]. Olszanski along with the rest of the audience demanded that Niewiadomski be commemorated in the urban space of Warsaw through the display of plaques with his name designed to resemble the signage of the capital's streets and squares. Olszanski later uploaded a video report of the rally, including his speech, on several YouTube accounts (the channels belonging to him had been removed due to promotion of hate speech).

WARSAW. On 17 December, extreme-right activist and former actor **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**), called for politically motivated murders in a video broadcast on one of his YouTube channels. Olszanski said, *'I am an Endek, [i.e. (a Polish acronym of)] a national democrat. Blood economy. No losses. Hit when the enemy is asleep and shoot him in the back of the head or cut his throat. No losses, no risk'*. In the video, Olszanski also mentioned the mass execution of Polish officers by the Russians in Katyn (which happened in 1940), invoking antisemitic threads, *'It's the winner's right to kill everyone. [...] And in the Old Testament – read what Jews did with the conquered nations – they slaughtered everything, including cats. All animals, children, cows, horses. That's their religious grace'*. Olszanski then referred to an antisemitic conspiracy theory about alleged overrepresentation of people of Jewish origin in communist Poland's Security Service: *'Who f*cked us? Jews from the NKVD [predecessor of the Russian KGB and FSB – translator's note]'*. The title of this video praising the murderer of the first President of the Republic of Poland Gabriel Narutowicz killed in 1922 is *'Eligiusz Niewiadomski – A hero'* (there is no mention of Niewiadomski in this video).

BIALOWIEZA. On 18 December, Grupa Granica (Border Group) which provides humanitarian aid to migrants published a video on Facebook which had been recorded in the car of the Border Guard during the deportation of five Syrian refugees to the border with Belarus. In the video, the Syrians asked the officials for asylum (international protection) in English. In response, the guards shouted out to them, *'From Belarus, f*ck, you are flying to Syria. Here you are f*cking illegally', 'Shut your face!', 'F*cking c*nts, f*ck! F*cking b*tches!'* The recording also included the words of one of the officers, *'When we f*cking throw them out through the swamp, we will have to cheer them on'*. Grupa Granica commented on the situation as follows: *'In the film, we can see how and under what conditions the officers transport desperate and frightened people back to the border with Belarus, forcing them to cross over, and refusing to initiate legal procedures (in this case proceedings to grant international protection). This is what these transportations are all about. Such practices are applied to older people, women, children, and men, as well as the sick, hungry, cold, and exhausted, and are accompanied by various forms of violence (psychological or physical)'*. As reported by Grupa Granica, the Syrians asked for help at the turn of October and November, when they were in the vicinity of Bialowieza. *'When we met them in the forest, they were terrified, cold, and hungry'*, the activists said. Ultimately, the Syrian nationals ended up in another country *'whose authorities allowed them to submit an application for international protection in connection with the persecution they experienced in their country of origin'*.

GRYFINO. On 18 December, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association was informed of xenophobic harassment directed at a pupil of one of the local primary schools. One of his parents has Asian origins and the child was repeatedly mocked and insulted because of his facial features. His father reported, *'My son is half-Asian and when he leaves school for a break and takes his face mask off (he is the only one who wears a face mask in the classroom because of the epidemic), it happens that children from other classes call him «Chinese» or «Ch*nky»'*. He added, *'I keep reporting all incidents of this kind to the teachers, but this problem is not treated as racism'*. The Headmaster's office was also informed about the incidents, but this did not improve the boy's situation.

WARSAW. On 18 December, **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) promoted an antisemitic conspiracy theory on his **Rodacy Kamraci Wilki (Compatriots Comrades Wolves)** YouTube channel (one of his many 'substitute' channels, established after YouTube had removed his main channel), according to which Ukraine is ruled by Jews. Olszanski said, *'There is one President of Ukraine –Yanukovych [Viktor], elected in legal elections. The other two pretenders [Petro Poroshenko and Volodymyr Zelenskiy] are not presidents, they are the so-called Jewish governors of Ukraine. They are breaking up Ukraine'*. During the broadcast Olszanski also demanded that the refugees held on the Polish-Belarusian border be killed, *'I wish that Polish soldiers [...] would shoot at those well-fed bulls, men of recruitable age, as they attack Poland. I wish that, upon warning them, they would shoot and kill these hired mercenaries in luxurious boots and luxurious jackets. A few dead and the problem's over'*. Later in the programme Olszanski brought three wooden clubs, which he handed to the co-host **Marcin Osadowski** and the program's guest **Maciej Poreba** (a member of the **Zmiana [Change]** party founded by **Mateusz Piskorski**, a promoter of Pan-Slavic nationalism and a neo-Nazi charged with spying for Russia and China). Poreba received a white club, making the comment, *'White power?'*, thus recalling an internationally known racist

slogan. Olszanski, with a club in his hand, threatened shouting, *'Instead of democracy, we have ZOMO [the most brutal police units from the era of communist Poland – translator's note] clubs for you! [...] We will f*ck your democracy out of your head with these clubs! All you left-wing female MPs!'*

WARSAW. On 19 December during the top flight football match between **Legia Warszawa** and Radomiak Radom, the local hooligans displayed a banner with the slogan: *'Duda, it's Poland here, not Polin'* (in Hebrew *'Polin'* means Poland). It was an antisemitic reaction to the words of Polish President, who on 1 December during the ceremony of lighting Hanukkah candles in the Presidential Palace said: *'This is Polin, this is a place for all of us, shaped by history and cemented by culture, where we want to continue to live together, in tolerance, mutual understanding and respect'*. During the same match, Legia's hooligans displayed a banner with the slogan: *'Traitors, hands off Dmowski'*. On 9 December Warsaw City Council adopted the resolution to endorse the petition to change the name of Dmowski roundabout to Women's Rights' roundabout. **Roman Dmowski** (1864-1939) was an ideologue of modern Polish antisemitism.

LODZ. On 29 December, on Grabowa Street masked men armed with axes, knives and crowbars attacked a workers' hostel in which the majority of guests were Ukrainians. As a result of this attack two people were hurt and they were given medical help. The bandits also devastated the interior of the building – they destroyed almost every door. The following night they again attacked the hostel – masked men threw small explosives at the windows and foul-mouthed the guests. According to a statement by the owner of the hostel, these attacks were based on nationality. In a conversation with the media, the man said, *'My guests are mainly from Ukraine. It has happened several times that somebody standing in front of the building shouted to them, «What is this? Is this Ukraine?», or «This is Poland!»'*. He also emphasised, *'Aggressive behaviour by Poles against my guests has been going on for some time now'*. In connection with this incident the police arrested two people. The public has not been informed about the result of further proceedings in this case.

WARSAW. On 29 December, on **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, **Jaroslaw Litwin**, a member of the District Chamber of Legal Advisers in Wroclaw, made ridiculous claims containing antisemitic stereotypes and negating historical truth about the Jedwabne pogrom [massacre of Jewish inhabitants of Jedwabne perpetrated by the Polish population of the town in presence of German occupying forces in 1941 – translator's note]. Litwin said, *'The international Jewish circles are using the conclusions, the wrong conclusions for that matter, regarding what happened in Jedwabne, to ascribe responsibility for Jewish massacres to the Polish nation, and that is insulting to our community. I will not stand for it'*. He also added, *'The Jewish culture is not based on the truth [...]. This is part of their culture that may surprise us, but it is used ruthlessly against us [Poles]'*. The programme was hosted by **Agata Witkowska** of **Instytut do Walki z Antypolonizmem Verba Veritatis (Institute for Combating Anti-Polishness Verba Veritatis)** which became infamous for filing a notification to the Public Prosecutor's Office against the Vice-President of the European Parliament Katerina Barley in relation to her allegedly *'insulting the Polish nation'*.

Both Verba Veritatis (financed by a government subsidy from the Justice Fund) and the studio of the far-right channel wRealu24 are located in Warsaw's PAST building, a symbol of the Warsaw

Uprising of 1944. The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association has protested numerous times against the use of these premises to promote hateful content.

YEAR 2022

JANUARY

BELCHATOW. In a January issue of the monthly football hooligan magazine '*To My Kibice*' ('*It's Us Fans*'), an article was published pertaining to fan groups in the Lodz Voivodeship, illustrated with photos taken at the stadiums. On one of them, hooligans of **WKS Wielun** club were displaying a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. It contained the neo-fascist slogan '*Good night left side*' and the symbol depicting a male kicking a lying human.

WARSAW. On 3 January, in front of the Italian Embassy in Dabrowski Square members of a far-right movement **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (NOP, National Rebirth of Poland)** organised a demonstration in support of **Roberto Fiore**, the leader of the Italian neo-fascist party **Forza Nuova**, and a number of other Italian extreme-right activists who from mid-October 2021 had been in police custody. They had all participated in attacks on the Rome headquarters of trade unions and the admission ward at the city hospital in which four people had been injured, namely policemen, ambulance workers, and a nurse. These incidents occurred during clashes between the demonstrating COVID-19 pandemic deniers and the police.



The Polish demonstration took place in front of the Italian Embassy. Members of NOP demanded that the representatives of the far-right Forza Nuova be released from custody. Two banners were displayed, one in support of Fiore and another one containing the Celtic cross (international racist symbol). The NOP men blocked the entrance to the Embassy and the police had to intervene.

In the 1980s, Roberto Fiore was allegedly involved in a terrorist attack at a railway station in Bologna in which 85 people were killed and 200 were injured. The trial took place in Italy, but before its commencement Fiore had managed to escape to Great Britain. During the trial, he was acquitted of the charge of participation in the attack, but he was sentenced to 5 years in prison for his activities in the fascist terrorist group **Nuclei Armati Rivoluzionari (NAR)**. However, his extradition was not requested and he never went to prison. When he returned to Italy in 1999, his sentence was statute-barred. For a number of years now, Fiore has been collaborating with the Polish extreme right, including, for example, articles written for '*Szczerbiec*' magazine published by NOP. The magazine is known for publishing, among others, articles denying the Holocaust, and texts by **Leon**

Degrelle, the commander of the **Walloon Waffen SS** division. The leader of Forza Nuova also participated multiple times in the so-called Independence March in Warsaw (ultra-nationalist manifestation organised on 11 November), and in 2016, at the invitation of **Konfederacja** Members of Parliament (**Confederation** party), he visited the Polish Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament).

WARSAW. On 5 January, in front of the Sejm building (lower chamber of Polish Parliament), a demonstration of opponents to the implementation of COVID-19 sanitary regulations took place, organised by supporters of the far-right group **Rodacy Kamraci (Compatriot Companionship)** led by **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) and **Marcin Osadowski**. The men are known as antisemitic ‘patostreamers’ [a Polish term for streaming online videos during which socially deviant behaviour is shown, such as drinking binges, domestic violence, or obscenities –



translator’s note]. During the demonstration Olszanski referred to conspiracy theories about the epidemic, urging the audience to settle accounts *‘with the enemies of the motherland’*, by which he meant the supporters of anti-COVID-19 laws and regulations, and he also announced the outbreak of a *‘civil war’*. Osadowski read out the list of Members of Parliament who supported the bill providing for the regulation of running businesses during the epidemic, and the demonstrators shouted after each name, *‘Traitor!’* and, *‘Shabbas Goy!’* [a non-Jew employed in a Jewish house

on the Sabbath; the term is pejorative and means *‘a Jew’s servant/farmhand’* – ed.]. The demonstrators also chanted the antisemitic slogan *‘Poland, not Polin!’* (the word ‘Polin’ means Poland in Hebrew; it is an antisemitic conspiracy theory, according to which ‘Polin’ would be a Jewish state formed after overtaking Poland) and *‘Death to the enemies of the motherland’*, a slogan encouraging ideologically motivated violence. Some of them also displayed such inscriptions together with the so-called Slavic swastika on their shirts and jackets.

POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDER. On 6 January, Janina Ochojska, a Member of the European Parliament and the President of the Polish Humanitarian Action (a non-governmental organisation which has been providing assistance to civilians suffering as a result of the armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters in several dozen countries worldwide), uploaded a recording on Twitter in which she stated the names of refugees and migrants who had died on the Polish-Belarusian border. Ochojska read the following information about these people:

- *Rajaa Hasan, 44, Syrian, mother, pushed back to Belarus, where she died.*
- *Kawa Anwar Mahmoud al-Jaff, 25, Iraqi, pushed back beyond the border six times. Dead.*
- *Ahmad al-Hasan, 19, Syrian from Homs. Drowned in the Bug River.*
- *Avin Ifran Zahir, 38, Iraqi, mother of five. She died in a hospital in Bialystok following a miscarriage in the forest.*
- *Issa Jerios, 24, Syrian, Christian, pushed back to Belarus. Died alone in a Polish field.*
- *Ahmed Hamid al-Zabhawi, entrepreneur, 25, Iraqi. Dead.*

- Gaylan Dler Ismail, 25, an Iraqi who ran out of diabetes medication. He died after being driven out to Belarus once again.
- Farhad Nabo, 33, Syrian, pastry chef. Dead.
- Mostafa al-Raimi, 37, Yemeni from Sanah, father of two. He died of exhaustion and hypothermia.
- Kurdo Khalid, 35, Iraqi from Erbil. Dead.
- Wafaa Kamel, 38, Iraqi, artist, mother of an 11- and an 8-year-old. She died after deportation due to hypothermia.
- Six victims unidentified’.

On 11 April 2022, Amnesty International Poland published a report entitled ‘*Poland: cruelty instead of compassion on the border with Belarus*’ which included recommendations and requests addressed to Polish authorities regarding protection of refugees, applicants for international protection, and migrants. One of these demands reads as follows: ‘*Immediately restore access to international protection, both in law and in practice, and put an end to all measures that prevent persons from entering the territory of the European Union and from submitting an application for international protection, including [...] ensuring safe access to the territory of Poland, and refraining from illegal border control practices, such as pushbacks, collective expulsions, and illegal expulsions*’.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 8 January at Jasna Gora Monastery, during the so-called Patriotic Pilgrimage of Football Fans, some of its members displayed banners and scarves with racist content. For example, hooligans of **Zaglebie Sosnowiec** carried a characteristic red-and-white flag stylised to the logo of **Blood and Honour**, a neo-Nazi organisation (its name was a motto of **Hitlerjugend**). The banner contained the slogan ‘*It has always been and will be a pure country*’, a quote from lyrics of a neo-Nazi band **Honor**. Moreover, Zaglebie hooligans exposed scarves with the slogan ‘*Death to the Enemies of Homeland*’, which calls for violence against the so-called ideological enemies. On the top of that, one of female hooligans of **Rakow Czestochowa** wore a scarf with Celtic crosses, a symbols of the so-called ‘*white power*’. The Pilgrimage has been organised for many years by **Jaroslav Wasowicz**, a priest from Pila.

WARSAW. On 8 January, on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** the host **Stanislaw Krajski** and his guest **Tomasz Stala** (owner of the **3dom** publishing house in Czestochowa which, among other things, sells books with antisemitic content) made strange antisemitic statements in which they accused Jews of following the cult of Satan. Stala asked, ‘*This new religion, this Talmudic Judaism that has been created, some books of the Talmud, are they not more racist than, for example, «Mein Kampf» by Hitler?*’ to which Krajski responded, ‘*Books, yes, I agree, except that besides Judaism, Kaballah came about, which is the same thing that the Freemasons believe. [...] This is a Jewish version of orphism, in other words, the satanic religion [...] the teachings of Satan that Jews are to become gods is practised [...] later Kabbalah returned in the form of Hasidism, in other words they combined Kabbalah, satanism with Judaism*’. Later in the conversation, Krajski defended antisemitic conspiracy theories, ‘*Jews as Freemasons, for example Rotschild, Rockefeller, etc. commit a lot of evil*’.

Later in the programme, Krajski recommended an extremely antisemitic book published by 3dom, ‘**You Are of Your Father the Devil**’ by Italian author **Curzio Nitoglia** who is known for having Nazi

sympathies. In the book Nitoglia states that Jews are a condemned nation, whose symbol is Satan (thus they are all evil), he promulgates theories about ‘a Judeo-masonic conspiracy against the Church’, expresses his approval for a ‘struggle against the Judeo-Talmudic thought’, portrays Jews as enemies of Christianity, and alleges that Christianity is threatened by ‘contamination’ with Judaism. In recommendation of Nitoglia’s book Stala said, ‘this book speaks the truth about who they [Jews] are and whom they serve, because if they do not serve Christ, then they must have the devil as their father, yes, if they do not serve Christ, they can only be condemned to infernal fire’. Summarising this train of thought, Krajski quoted archbishop **Jan Pawel Lenga** and declared, ‘Jews are slaves to Mammon, and I say that they should be pulled out from the evil in which they dwell’. [Lenga is a former bishop of Karaganda, Kazakhstan, now retired, who publicly called Pope Francis a ‘heretic’, and who, in 2000, was forbidden from conducting mass and making public announcements to the media – ed.]

WARSAW. On 12 January, in a programme broadcast on YouTube, the far-right activist and former actor **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) threatened politicians who had declared themselves in favour of vaccination against COVID-19. Waving a police truncheon, Olszanski shouted threats against the Member of Parliament Boleslaw Piecha (whose photo was shown on the screen), ‘How beautifully would this truncheon match your face! Do you have MP immunity? Never mind, I’ll break through the immunity! Right into your deceitful face’. Continuing this thread, he addressed the co-host of the programme **Marcin Osadowski**, ‘Let’s see what they write about this half-f*cking-b*tch [sic!] on the Jewish Wikipedia’. Olszanski also threatened another MP Czeslaw Hoc, ‘We’re coming for you! [...] We will stick you out with Russian angular bayonets’.

A viewer who introduced himself as **Marek** from Przemysl called the live broadcast and also shouted threats at Piecha, referring to the information previously cited from Wikipedia that, as a gynaecologist, he had once performed an abortion: ‘I will get him, this c*cksucker, I know where he lives and with whom he hangs out. [...] This motherf*cker carrying out genocide, when they introduce it [it probably refers to mandatory vaccination – ed.], I’ll f*cking massacre him first. If you don’t have any balls, then I’ll f*cking find him and f*cking kill him’. Another listener also threatened the MPs who supported vaccinations, ‘Think carefully, because it’s f*cking risking your life, your families’ lives, this is not a game that is worth it. You will just be judged like weeds. And since weeds can yield nothing but weeds, people will take care of your families, too’.

Threats repeated during the broadcast and Olszanski’s aggressive behaviour were further strengthened when he declared, ‘I’ve had a gun license for a very long time. Some, when they found out about it, trembled. Yup, I have it. Probably after I am convicted, it will be taken away from me, but they will not cut my fingers off – I will still be able to shoot it’.

SEDZISZOW MALOPOLSKI. On 13 January, in the basement of a block of flats on Osiedle Mlodych Street, resident of the town Jordan K. brutally beat a man who is homeless. He punched him in the face twice, and when the victim fell to the ground, he kicked him unconscious in the head, causing numerous injuries. As a result of this attack, Slawomir K. died, after several days in hospital. The bandit was accompanied by an acquaintance Kamil K. who did not help the tortured man. On 7 June, the Regional Public Prosecutor’s Office in Rzeszow charged Jordan K. with murder. The perpetrator pleaded guilty and was put under

temporary arrest for three months. In turn, Kamil K., a direct witness of the incident, was charged with failure to offer aid. He also confessed to the alleged offence.

Articles describing this murder were accompanied by a photo of the perpetrator (taken from Facebook), in which he was wearing a sweatshirt with the slogan 'CWP' (standing for 'Czolem Wielkiej Polsce' – 'Hail to the Great Poland'), used in the interwar period by Polish fascist organisations, and today by extreme-right groups. In the past (mainly in the 1990s), brutal ideological murders were committed in Poland by fascist activists on people without housing. These were the so-called homicides out of contempt, to which people impacted by social exclusion were particularly exposed, considered by the perpetrators a 'defective element' of society or nation. Documentation of these crimes is included in the '*Brown Book*' of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association.

WARSAW. On 14 January, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube appeared a video with the participation of **Wojciech Sumlinski**, a co-author of antisemitic books from the series '*Return to Jedwabne*'. In the course of the conversation, he linked conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic with antisemitic conspiracy theories. According to Sumlinski, *'there is a group of globalists' who 'have origins related to one particular nationality. And [...] from this environment one can hear a voice that there should arise a world government on the basis of a pandemic, because the pandemic is global. [...] And that this world government is to be represented in every country, it is to be made up of eighteen people, and the capital of this government is to be Jerusalem'*.

BIALYSTOK. On 15 January, during their demonstration at the Kosciuszko Market, COVID-19 epidemic deniers chanted, *'This is Poland and not Polin!'* (Hebrew word meaning Poland; this slogan invokes an antisemitic conspiracy theory according to which Jews are endeavouring to take over Poland). The demonstrators displayed a banner on which fragments of the swastika could be seen. Moreover, the organisers of this gathering announced a 'death sentence' issued on 25 September 2021 for Tadeusz Truskolaski, the Mayor of Białystok. It was signed by the so-called **Podlaski Trybunał Sprawiedliwości (Justice Tribunal of the Podlasie Region, informal group)** and the charges included *'propagation of sanitary segregation'* (meaning counteraction against the epidemic). According to this sentence, the death penalty was to be *'carried out in a humanitarian manner'*. With this in mind, the demonstrators called for going to the place of residence of the Mayor. They threatened his family and co-workers. Moreover, they displayed another banner which carried threats: *'Sentence: death penalty for creators and executors of the sanitary regime'*. Mayor Truskolaski filed a notification of punishable threats to the Public Prosecutor's Office. The Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Lomża charged **Robert P.** with deeds connected with announcing of purported sentences and uttering threats against six people. Additionally, **Marianna G.** was charged with threatening one person. On 17 January, the City Council of Białystok issued a statement in which it condemned the action of the antivaxxers, *'Words about issuing death sentence for the Mayor Mr. Tadeusz Truskolaski are unacceptable. We cannot treat such behaviour as part of public debate. The tragic death of late Paweł Adamowicz [Mayor of Gdansk, assassinated in January 2019 – translator's note] shows what such lawlessness can lead to'*.

WARSAW. On 15 January, the Parliamentary Team for the Defence of Freedom of Speech and the Parliamentary Team for the Freedom of Research, Publication, and Public Debate held a meeting in the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament). The discussion, chaired by **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party) Members of Parliament **Dobromir Sosnierz** and **Grzegorz Braun**, was devoted to the problem of alleged ‘censorship’ on the internet. It was attended by representatives of internet channels known for hosting hateful content (for example, **Marcin Rola** from the far-right YouTube channel **wRealuz4**, which broadcast the event), members of Konfederacja, as well as the Deputy Minister of Justice **Sebastian Kaleta**. MP Braun delivered antisemitic conspiracy theories and homophobic content, saying, inter alia, ‘*Statesmen and heads of state, including the President of the Republic of Poland, not only ritually bow to Jews in New York, but they also go to California to talk to people sitting somewhere there at the tops of the pyramids, the managers of the so-called social media. [...] The purpose of this operation is not to get rid of this or that book from Allegro [the biggest online e-commerce platform in East-Central Europe – translator’s note] or to close another Facebook profile, the purpose is [...] the canon of political correctness [which] is easy to define: let no one dare speak about Jews, sodomites, and communists in a way that is not sentimental or idealising, because they will get hit*’. He also trivialised the historical memory of the crimes of Nazism, speaking of organisations fighting against hate speech, ‘*This Big Brother’s Internet Gestapo has blackmailers at its service*’. None of the other discussion participants reacted to Braun’s statements.

WARSAW. On 16 January, Warsaw Councillor Marek Szolc posted a tweet informing of an antisemitic inscription located under the Poniatowski Bridge, in a passage leading to public transport stops. The slogan on the wall read, ‘*We do not want you, Juden*’ (German for Jews). The Councillor announced a remedial action and the removal of the inscription.



WARSAW. On 18 January, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube appeared a video interview with **Radosław Patlewicz**, the author of the book ‘***Mord rytualny w Rzeszowie? Sledztwo historyczne***’ (***Ritual murder in Rzeszow? A historical investigation***), spreading antisemitic messages about alleged murders of Christians by the Jews. According to Patlewicz, ‘*There is hard evidence that the Jews used the blood of humans and animals primarily for medical purposes, as well as for ritual purposes. It is, of course, the paschal matzah and the so-called wine ritual accompanying the Seder dinner*’. In this context, he encouraged the viewers: ‘*[...] it is probably high time for some counter-offensive of the truth against our enemies, so there is probably no heavier topic here than the topic of ritual murders – you have to hit here, show the truth here, as it really was [...]*’. For centuries, the Jews in Poland and Europe were accused of murdering Christian children for ritual purposes. There were numerous trials in which the Jews were tortured and sentenced to death for this reason. Papal bulls, statements of the Catholic Church and scientific papers clearly state that these are slander. Accusations of ritual murders have led to bloody anti-

Jewish pogroms in history, also in modern times (the rumor of a boy kidnapped for making matzah led to the 1946 Kielce pogrom).

WARSAW. On 22 January, **Jan Bodakowski**, a regular host on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, a participant of extreme right-wing demonstrations for many years, and the candidate of **Konfederacja (Confederation** – a far right party) in the 2019 parliamentary elections (he was not elected), during the broadcast expressed his support for manifestations of antisemitism. He stated: *‘We do not have to be ashamed of such views that today, by left-wing and pseudo-liberal circles, are called antisemitism according to the new definition of antisemitism. We do not have to be ashamed of the fact that we are opponents of unfounded Jewish claims’*. Bodakowski probably had in mind the draft definition of antisemitism formulated by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which in 2016 was adopted by 31 member states of this organization.

OSWIECIM. On 23 January, a female visitor from the Netherlands made a Nazi salute at the *‘Arbeit macht frei’* gate to the former concentration camp of Auschwitz I. She posed in this way for a photo taken by her husband. The woman was apprehended by the museum guards and taken to the police station. The case was sent to the District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Oswiecim, where she was charged with promoting fascism. The woman pleaded guilty of the offence and was fined.

KRAKOW. On the night of 26/27 January, a group of four men and one woman attacked a young man near one of the city’s LGBT-friendly clubs. The attackers shouted homophobic insults and spat at the man. They also punched him in the face, knocked him down onto the pavement and kicked him. In the attack, the man’s nose was broken and he got bruised on the left side of his skull. The police were informed about the incident.

BYDGOSZCZ. On 29 January, a demonstration of COVID-19 deniers took place in the Old Market Square, during which the leader of the far-right group **Rodacy Kamraci (Compatriot Companionship) Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) encouraged violence and expressed death threats against Members of Polish Parliament. During the demonstration Olszanski held a wooden club in his hand and spoke to the assembled in this manner, *‘This is a club for the MP snout. If on 1 February they vote, as they want, to adopt this law [reference probably to the anti-epidemic regulations – ed.], if they do it, they will sentence themselves to death and we will create these death lists. This is a warning for them. If they vote yes, then I, Wojciech Olszanski, known on the internet as Aleksander Jablonowski, want to kill them! [...] I want them dead! Death to the enemies of the motherland! [slogan encouraging ideologically motivated violence]’*. In response, the crowd chanted *‘Death!’*. The participants also performed a song entitled *‘Onwards, Slavic Comrades’* based on a Serbian folk melody, with lyrics such as: *‘We are going after you, you criminals, to drain blood from your veins [...] / No one’s hand will tremble, no one will show pity / There will be no tears in our eyes. Enemy, prepare yourself for death’*.

WARSAW. On 30 January, the sport.pl website published an interview with Émile Thiakane, a football player from Senegal, of the second division football club Puszcza Niepolomice. In an interview with a journalist, the player mentioned his experiences after arriving in Poland, referring

to some xenophobic events. When he played for Wloclavia Wloclawek (fifth division) in the 2011/2012 season, he was brutally beaten. He reported: *'My dreadlocks were longer than they are now. One evening I went to a nightclub. There was a group of six men who kept staring at me and talking about something. I heard and understood everything, but I didn't react. After an hour I went up to a bar to place my order. That's when they got me. They beat me and pulled at my dreadlocks. They ripped them out. The bar owners had the incident recorded because the bar was monitored, but they didn't make it easy for the police. In the end, the aggressors had to pay 300 zlotys of fine. They were punished for ordinary assault. The entire racist context of this attack was ignored'*.

FEBRUARY 2022

TORUN. On 1 February, on **Radio Maryja**, in a discussion on the COVID-19 epidemic Fr. **Tadeusz Rydzyk** [a Roman Catholic priest and the director of Radio Maryja station and **TV Trwam** station known for antisemitic statements] made serious derogatory remarks referring to the memory of the child victims of Nazi camps. He commented on the information about COVID-19 immunisation given to young children in clinical trials, *'This must not happen! If anyone carries out such experiments, I shall compare their actions to the instincts the Germans had in them when creating concentration camps for children, for example in Lodz. This is unimaginable. [...] It is a crime and they are criminals'*.

WARSAW. On 2 February, **Ronald Lasecki**, one of the ideologists of the Polish extreme right, posted words in support of death penalty for homosexual contacts on his Twitter profile. [Lasecki is a collaborator of **Instytut Spraw Obywatelskich (Institute of Civic Affairs)** and **Centrum Edukacyjne Polska (Poland Education Centre)**, as well as a columnist for, among others, neo-fascist outlets **'Szturm'**, **Xportal** and **'Templum Novum'** – ed.] He wrote, *'Iran has executed two f*ggots who had been convicted of sodomy and held in prison for 6 years. The death penalty is enforced there for murder, armed robbery, sodomy, paedophilia, and rape. You can see at first glance that this is a civilised country'*. Also on 13 February, he posted content on Twitter which propagated hatred: *'Interracial relationships are bad; homosexuality is a deviation; f*ck Jewry-PiS [Law and Justice, party ruling Poland since 2015 – translator's note]'*.

WARSAW. On 3 February, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, a columnist for the right-wing magazine **'Do Rzeczy'**, using his channel on YouTube delivered a lengthy speech, full of falsifications about alleged terror introduced by the Muslim minority in France: *'Two hours' drive from Paris, there is a town in which Islam principles are already fully mandatory, and this constitutes an expression, a symbol which should be used to show what had happened to a Europe gone senile. [...] For example, all dolls in stores lack eyes and mouths. Same with books sold there, pictures of humans in these books are also lacking eyes and mouths. How do we find such Chucky dolls in the Mohammed version? It's because Islamic fundamentalists are guided by the indication that humans may not be portrayed. If a store were to sell dolls with eyes and mouths, it would be set on fire or the store owner would be beheaded. Everybody is scared. Maybe these eyes and mouths can be bought separately on the black market and the child can attach them on its own at home, so as not to have a terrifying, scary Islamic doll, but a normal one. In restaurants and pubs there are special, separated areas where women may*

eat. Everyone has to abide by these laws because this town is totally under control of fundamentalists. [...] What's more, these fundamentalist organisations are financed by government funding'.

Additionally Ziemkiewicz insulted and spread false information about co-founder of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, Prof. Rafal Pankowski: *'If anyone has not come across this individual's activities, I recommend it [...] and of course, thunderous applause, here is a bag of silver, for the brave hero of the fight against antisemitism'*. In fact, such statements were never made by Prof. Pankowski.

GDANSK. On 5 February, during the top flight football match between **Lechia Gdansk** and Slask Wroclaw, hooligan supporters of the local club displayed a flag in a so-called 'nest' (a place at a stadium where one person organises support for one of the teams) with the image of **Janusz Walus**, as well as a slogan: *'Nothing will break you, you are not alone!'* Walus is a Polish expatriate sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa, where he murdered anti-apartheid leader Chris Hani in 1993 [on parole since December 2022 – translator's note]. He has never expressed remorse for this act. Lechia's fans have been displaying this banner and support Walus's deeds with complete impunity in their stadiums for several years.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 6 February, during the top flight football match between **Rakow Czestochowa** and Wisla Krakow, one of the hooligans of the local club displayed a scarf with the slogan *'Janusz Walus is our guide'*. Walus is a Polish immigrant sentenced to life in South Africa [on parole since December 2022 – translator's note], where in 1993 he murdered Chris Hani, a politician fighting for abolishment of apartheid. The scarf also contained the slogan *'White honour, white pride'* (the lyrics of neo-Nazi band **Konkwista 88**) and the symbol of triskelion (stylised three-arms swastika) with the colours of the Third Reich's flag in the background. Triskelion is a racist symbol used in South Africa. Moreover, some of the Rakow 'fans' displayed the scarves with the Celtic cross – an international racist symbol.



POLAND. On 7 February, on an Instagram account belonging to a Polish short track speed skater, Kamila Stormowska (Poland's representative at the Beijing Winter Olympics), a user nicknamed **'jankowalski5131'** posted a racist comment. Under a photo presenting Stormowska and her dark-skinned partner, French-born Diane Sellier, Poland's representative in ice skating (short-track), the post read: *'Sorry, but I don't like N*ggers. My late grandmother used to say that a broken bottle neck is a N*gger's knife...'* Stormowska strongly condemned the words in response: *'Firstly, this is inhuman, and secondly it sounds like a threat. Don't insult and call people names. Just because someone has a different skin colour does not mean he is less worthy [...]. I'm just sad that people continue to use hate speech, that they continue to bully others. Respect all people in the same way and give everyone equal chances'*.

POLAND. On 9 February, in an interview with Sport.pl, Marcin Kupczak, a traveller, football fan and blog author, reported racist messages he had received in connection with his work in African countries. He helped to renovate and build sport infrastructures and organised activities for children in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya. In Kenya, he organised, in cooperation with Polish football clubs, a league competition ('Polish division' in Africa), during which boys played in training jerseys of Piast Gliwice, Legia Warszawa or Ruch Chorzow football club. When Kupczak posted photos on his blog showing the young players in these outfits, hooligan supporters posted racist comments in response, including: *'You let N*ggers walk around in the jerseys of my beloved club!'*

WARSAW. On 9 February, **Zbigniew Gorniak**, an employee of **TVP3 Opole** (Polish regional public TV station), posted an aggressive comment on Twitter: *'I'm looking for a computer program that will allow me to shave bald the head of MP Klaudia Jachira in her photos'*. In this way, Gorniak condemned the Member of Parliament for leaving the chamber in protest when some of the MPs decided to commemorate Major **Zygmunt Szendzielarz 'Lupaszka'**, an officer accused of war crimes on grounds of nationality in the Vilnius region in 1944, with a minute's silence. A subsequent statement relating to the tweet was issued by TVP (Polish State Television), and... it expressed appreciation for its author, *'Mr. Zbigniew Gorniak will not be punished, because his comment primarily presented a patriotic attitude and a healthy system of values, in no way diminished by its humorous form'*. On 11 February, in a statement for the internet portal wirtualnemedial.pl Gorniak confirmed his words and attacked Jachira again. He stated that his comment referred to *'shaving the heads of the war-time collaborators by soldiers of the Home Army'* [major armed resistance organisation during World War II in Poland – translator's note] and accused her of *'anti-Polish opinions'*.

LECZNA. On 11 February, during the top flight football match between Gornik Leczna and **Slask Wroclaw** the hooligans of the visiting club displayed a banner depicting the logo of **Blood and Honour** (international neo-Nazi organisation). The banner contained the caption: *'Be proud of who you are. The sign of eagle, the symbol of power guides us'*, a quotation from the lyrics of the neo-Nazi rock band **Honor**.

SIERADZ. On 11 February, a man vandalised the town's Jewish cemetery on Zakladnikow Street. The man destroyed parts of the fence surrounding the necropolis, including posts and chains. He was apprehended by the municipal guard and handed over to the police.

CRACOW. On 12 February, Member of European Parliament Roza Thun (representing Koalicja Europejska – European Coalition, a political alliance of pro-European Polish parties) informed on her Twitter profile of the death threats she had received by e-mail from an anonymous sender, possibly motivated by extreme nationalism. The message she received read, *'I have placed semtex explosives to be detonated by a radio signal in your office on Pijarska Street in Cracow. You will all die, you treacherous Soviet wh*res!'* MEP Roza Thun reported the threats to the police.

WARSAW. On 12 February, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, a columnist for the far-right weekly *'Do Rzeczy'*, posted the following comment on Twitter: *'«The Tinder Swindler» – it's hard not to become an*

antisemite after watching this film. Especially after the last five minutes'. 'The Tinder Swindler' is a 2022 British documentary directed by Felicity Morris, which tells the story of Simon Leviev who used the dating app to cheat women and extort large sums of money from them. In his Twitter entry Ziemkiewicz referred to the country of origin of this negative character (Leviev was born in Israel) to express his dislike for Jews in general.

WARSAW. On 15 February, on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel was broadcast another interview with **Radoslaw Patlewicz**, the author of the book '**Mord rytualny w Rzeszowie? Sledztwo historyczne**' ('**Ritual murder in Rzeszow? A historical investigation**'), repeating antisemitic claims regarding alleged ritual murders committed by Jews. During the interview, Patlewicz accused the Jews of '[...] collaborating with the Swedes during the «Potop» [lit. 'the flood' – a war of 1655-1660 during which entire Poland was overwhelmed and sacked by the Swedish armies – translator's note], helping the partitioners [during three partitions of the territory of Poland: in 1772, 1793 and 1795 by Prussia, Austria and Russia – translator's note], [expressing] in opposition to the independence of Poland'. He further accused the Jews of propagating the following 'lies': 'We also have a lie of Jedwabne [a town where a pogrom took place during World War II – translator's note] [...], a lie of the Judeo-communism – that there was no such thing [...], we have a lie of the alleged victims of March '68, delivered by the President of Polin, Andrzej Duda [according to the conspiracy theory, Polin is Poland appropriated by the Jews – translator's note]'. Thus, he questioned the historical truth about the crime in Jedwabne, as well as about the antisemitic campaign of 1967-68, as a result of which several thousand people of Jewish origin had to leave Poland. He also referred to the alleged ritual murders once again and lamented that it was 'hard to fight' the fact that the Jews were contradicting these stereotypes about ritual murders. Patlewicz also questioned the fact that on 11 August 1945, there was an anti-Jewish pogrom in Krakow, the perpetrators of which were Polish residents. He used the term '*the so-called pogrom in Krakow*' (during the Sabbath service, a crowd broke into the Kupa synagogue in Krakow. The praying Jews were beaten, the synagogue demolished, and later set on fire. The perpetrators attacked the Jews in the streets, and there were also attacks on Jewish apartments. As a result of these events, at least one person of Jewish origin was killed).

WARSAW. On 18 February, on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel a broadcast was released entitled 'Migrants from Ukraine WILL FLOOD POLAND?!', during which the host, **Karol Plewa**, received calls from viewers. Among these statements, there were comments with a xenophobic overtone; their authors had a negative attitude towards the issue of accepting refugees and providing them with assistance in the event of a war. One of those calling, who introduced himself as **Darek** from Otwock, warned against accepting Ukrainians: '*They can give us a hell, to us, Poles. They are more aggressive than us. It's just like those refugees who come from Syria or somewhere else, they are just as aggressive as the refugees from the Arabs. It can also become dangerous in Poland*'. In turn, **Adam** from Warsaw combined anti-Ukrainian with antisemitic tropes and invoked a conspiracy theory on the creation of Polin (i.e. Poland seized by the Jews), which would have been achieved by deliberately bringing Ukrainians in: '[...] if the Poles start to rebel in the Polin project, we will deal with them using Ukrainians. I am afraid that it is no coincidence that

the Ukrainians are so welcomed here'. He also called people from Ukraine who would seek refuge in Poland from the war – *'invaders'*.

ŁÓDŹ. On 19 February, *'Gazeta Wyborcza'* (liberal daily) published an article on hate speech aimed at people with disabilities or with serious diseases. One of the interviewees was Przemek Ledzian who, among other things, has a heart defect, lung tumours, and is a person with polyneuropathy which might make him a wheelchair user within a few years. Due to his health condition, the man cannot work. For 11 years he has been a volunteer of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (the biggest, non-governmental, non-profit charity organisation in Poland) and he has set up a Facebook profile where he shares information about various selected fundraisers for the sick and the needy. He has never set up a fundraiser for himself. In connection with his charity work, he regularly receives hateful messages, for example: *'Get to work, you f*g'*, *'Pathology is what you, your mom and your dad are'* and *'You scrounge off your people but will you give up your sea-side vacation? Greedy filth'*.

The second interviewee was a mother of a girl who died of cancer. Her daughter fell ill in 2016 at the age of fourteen. She underwent a tumour surgery which required removal of her upper jaw, a fragment of her palate, and her upper teeth. Further treatment required the administration of a drug not reimbursed by the National Health Fund. The girl was taken care of by the Gajusz Foundation from Łódź, which organised a fundraiser for her. The family lived in the countryside and in order to be able to travel to the doctor based in Łódź, the parents bought a car for 600 PLN (approx. 140 EUR). This is when they started receiving hateful comments. On Facebook their neighbour wrote, *'We already know what this fundraiser is funding'* and sent offensive messages to the sick girl. Other internet entries contained accusations that the parents were *'earning extra money from the child's disease'*. Consequently, the daughter discontinued treatment and demanded that the charity actions be stopped. Ultimately, she agreed to a further fundraiser, this time anonymously. Six months later, the girl died.

The third interviewee was a mother of a seriously ill boy, less than ten-years-old, living with, among other things, Goldenhar syndrome, hearing impairment, and craniofacial disorders. A fundraiser was announced for his treatment including two operations in Geneva, Switzerland. The boy's mother received contemptuous, even dehumanising comments about the treatment of her disabled son, for example: *'Why save this creature? It consists of nothing but tubes'* or *'This money could feed thousands of children instead of saving just one'*.



ZABRZE. On 20 February, during the top flight football match between Gornik Zabrze and **Rakow Czestochowa**, the hooligans of the visiting club displayed a banner expressing support for **Janusz Walus** – Polish immigrant, who in 1993 in South Africa killed for racist reasons Chris Hani, an anti-apartheid leader. Walus was sentenced to life and never expressed remorse [on parole since December 2022 – translator's note]. The supporters of the far right in

Poland for years have been developing a sort of cult around Walus and have been publicly praising the murder he has committed.

WARSAW. On 22 February, two days before the Russian military attack on Ukraine, **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz**, a longtime commentator on **Radio Maryja** (a religious radio station with connections to radical nationalism) made statements inciting hatred and bias against Ukrainians on the **wRealu24** (internet television) YouTube channel. He claimed: *'If these refugees were to have then status of refugees then Poland will have to support them financially and this is not good, because they won't want to find employment – why would they? [...] And then there's a second threat, because if Poland welcomed a million refugees, then there would be 5 million Ukrainians living in Poland and what would we do if they demanded political rights? And it's only a matter of time before this happens'*. In the later part of the programme, the host **Lukasz Lech** asked his interlocutor about the *'neobanderism in Ukraine'* (banderists were members of the **Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists**, commonly 'banderist' refers to Ukrainians who took part in the Volhynia massacre of Poles as well as in Jewish pogroms in 1943-1944). Michalkiewicz corrected him saying that it's just *'banderism'* and claimed: *'Banderists are the only authentic political power in Ukraine and we have to take that into account in the Ukrainian diaspora'*.

Since December of 2018, internet TV programmes on Real24 have been broadcast from a studio located in the historic building of PAST (the Polish Telecoms company), a symbol of one of the greatest victories of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association attempted to intervene in the matter of renting PAST premises to an internet television channel known for the regular spreading of hatred, but the capital authorities neglected to take any action in this matter.

WARSAW. On 22 February during a programme broadcast on the **wRealu24** (internet television) YouTube channel, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, a commentator on **TV Republika (Republic TV)**, made a contemptuous and biased statement on the threat of war in Ukraine: *'Whatever they say, but Ukrainians are quite good in cutting throats. And if they wanted to take hits at this occupant Russian army then no Russian will have the guts to go out for girls or to buy alcohol. [...] The Russians will come, yeah they will, so they will bleed out, and they will bleed out Ukrainians as well of course. We can't do anything'*. During the broadcast Ziemkiewicz also shared a conspiracy theory on the supposed 'Jewish claims': *'Does antisemitism exist in Poland nowadays? No. Bollocks, it doesn't. [...] The problem starts when American Jews come and try to steal a lot of money from us, the same way they steal from the rest of the world, under the pretense of some reparations for the Holocaust'*.

WARSAW. On 22 February, **Bartłomiej Kurzeja**, co-creator of the so-called **Telewizja Narodowa (National TV)**, who is known for organising antisemitic events and was convicted of inciting hatred in 2020, posted extremely anti-Ukrainian content on Twitter. Kurzeja posted a map of Ukraine, with selectively marked territories which had been conquered by various countries from the 10th century up to the present day. Kurzeja used this image to deny Ukraine's right to sovereignty, adding the following appeal to the post: *'Let's dismantle this artificial anti-Polish Banderastan! **Bandera** followers are not brothers to us! Lviv is Polish!!!'* (**Stepan Bandera** was the leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists** (OUN), an organisation which collaborated with Nazi Germany. The OUN led an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in Volhynia during 1943-44. In

practice, the term 'Bandera' is frequently used in Poland today as an ethnic slur against all Ukrainians).

WARSAW. On 23 February during a broadcast on the **wRealu24** (internet television) YouTube channel, Dr. **Lucyna Kulinska** (a longtime lecturer at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow, in 2019 she ran for the European Parliament and the Lower House of the Polish Parliament [Sejm], as a far-right **Konfederacja** [**Confederation** party] candidate) claimed that the start of a war in Ukraine is necessary and discouraged anyone from helping Ukrainian citizens in any form: *'The truth is that some sort of twist of reality occurred over there that can only be solved by weapons. [...] I wish for the Ukrainians that they will win the unity of their country on their own accord'*. In a later part of the programme Kulinska called Ukraine a country of *'oppressors of a couple of thousand Poles, who expelled the rest from those lands, taking their property, which they have never returned, and today they won't even allow for our dead to be buried'*. Her words met with an enthusiastic reaction from the host **Piotr Szlachetowicz**, who said: *'Fine, we can help you, but this, this and that, and first of all we have to settle the issue of Volhynia* [referring to the ethnic cleansing of Poles by Ukrainians in Volhynia in 1943-1944 – translator's note]. *No one talks about this'*. Kulinska also fuelled the negative sentiments towards Ukrainians by manipulating references to modern times: *'National relations in our country have already been hugely disturbed by letting millions of Ukrainians into Poland. [...] More and more Ukrainians take jobs that could have been for Poles'*.



OPOLE. On 24 February, the day of Russia's attack on Ukraine, and in the following weeks, Head of the **Wolyn Pamietamy Foundation** (**Volhynia Remembered Foundation**), **Katarzyna Sokolowska** posted strongly anti-Ukrainian material on her Facebook and Twitter profiles. Some remarks were also antisemitic. On the day the war began, Sokolowska wrote, *'Will the hordes of Ukrainians coming to us be «scanned»?' and '#NoSupportForUkraine #ThisIsNotOurWar'*. When the Mayor of Warsaw Rafal Trzaskowski tweeted that the Palace of Culture and Science would be illuminated in the colours of the Ukrainian flag as a sign of solidarity with the victims of the war, Sokolowska commented, *'An amusement park in Warsaw?' Her other comments included, 'I do not support Banderite Ukraine!!!* [referring to **Stepan Bandera** – leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists** (OUN), which led an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in Volhynia during 1943-44. In practice 'Bandera' is an ethnic slur frequently used against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator's note]' (26 February), *'In what currency do we pay the sheep who, at all costs want to bury the subject of the Ukrainian genocide against the Polish nation? In Dollars, 25.7%. In Shekels 64.9%. In Hryvnias 9.4%'* (10 March), *'We are witnessing a manipulation of nationality in Poland'* (14 March), *'Open your eyes!!! These are not war refugees, they are migrants!!!'* (17 March) and *'Stupid Poliners* [Polin means Poland in Hebrew – translator's note] *are lending a hand*

in the complete Ukrainisation of Poland' (March 25). Sokolowska also copied the following from other sources: *'The police are full of Ukry [an abusive term for Ukrainians – translator's note]. Banks employ speakers of Ukrainian, teachers – Ukry, cultural institutions host Ukrainian events plus give privileges to students from Ukraine! People! What is happening in Poland? Will we be able to chase away this Jewish-Banderite society, or do Poles have NO say in it?'* (February 24), *'For the time being, the Ukry have disrespect and contempt for us'* (March 20), *'Ukrainization continues'* (March 25).

Sokolowska has been promoting hate speech against Ukrainians for many years. In June 2022, she will face trial on charges of publicly insulting a person on the grounds of their nationality. According to a report in the *Rzeczpospolita* newspaper on 17 March, the Prosecutor's Office have charged her with fourteen charges under Article 257 of the Criminal Code.

POZNAN. On 24 February, the day when Russia's military aggression against Ukraine began, the owners of the **Akamed** health clinic on Przemyslowa Street, posted a message on the door of the facility, which said, *'We do not serve Russians'*. The use of the idea of collective responsibility is unfair to representatives of the Russian community in Poland, many of whom are involved in protests against the war and in helping Ukrainian refugees. After the issue was publicised by the local media, the content of the discriminatory announcement was changed. The word *'Russians'* was crossed out and replaced with, *'Supporters of the military operation in Ukraine'*, in Polish.

WARSAW. On 24 February, a few hours after the start of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party MP, **Grzegorz Braun** (a nationalist known for antisemitic statements), posted a comment on Twitter, in which he called for people not to help those fleeing war-torn Ukraine: *'The humanitarian imperative: DO NOT leave the territory of the Republic of Poland wide open, do not create demand for the migration of refugees/invaders – it could be possible to organise shuttle trains... to the western border'*.

POLAND. From the very first days of the war information appeared on social media about landlords refusing to rent their apartments to refugees from Ukraine. They posted announcements that were discriminatory: *'We do not rent to foreigners'*, *'Guests from Ukraine please do not call'*, *'Families from Ukraine thank you but no'* or *'Ukrainian citizens thank you but no'*. Here are a couple of examples of such situations:

- On 28 February, in an Instagram post the actress, Julia Kaminska wrote: *'Does anybody have a flat to rent in Marki [a city close to Warsaw – translator's note]? I'm trying to find an apartment for a mum and a child from Ukraine. I want to rent this apartment for her but I'm finding hurdles. Turns out not everyone want to rent to people from Ukraine. I am destroyed'*. There were a lot of positive responses to Kaminska's post, and later that day the actress updated her followers: *'We managed to find an apartment, thank you for the numerous responses, you're amazing'*.
- On 16 March the following statement from a Ukrainian citizen appeared in *'Gazeta Pomorska'* newspaper: *'A friend from Torun helped to find an apartment for me and my daughter. When we arrived, it turned out that it will be rented to someone else. The owner explained that she preferred to rent it to Poles not Ukrainians'*.

- On 23 March prof. Michal Bilewicz from the Center for Research on Prejudice at the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Warsaw, tweeted two examples of ‘offers of apartments to let a Polish small town’: *‘Potential renters without a Polish citizenship, no thank you’* and *‘Rent available to Poles only’*.

The issue with renting apartments to refugees from Ukraine has been addressed by, among others, Bianca Bakowska a real estate adviser (interview from the 30 March on the Interia website). She said: *‘[At first – editor’s note] we saw a wave of a human instinct to help – people gladly housed [refugees] in their flats without pay. However, the second wave, when it became clear that the war won’t end so quickly, led to a huge rise in prices on the rent market. The prices skyrocketed, especially in larger cities. [...] We can see that the first emotional wave finished ended very quickly, and currently, despite Poles’ good intentions, there are people who just want to take advantage of the increase in refugees in Poland’*.

LUBAN. On 25 February, *‘unknown perpetrators’* devastated the cemetery on Kamienna Gora where Soviet soldiers killed in the Battle for Luban in late February and early March 1945, and soldiers of the Second Polish Army are buried. Twenty-seven soldiers’ gravestones were destroyed or damaged. On 27 October, local media reported another devastation of the cemetery. Someone painted swastikas on the graves. In connection with these events Zdzislaw Bykowski, a social activist, co-organiser and member of the Polish anti-Communist movement Solidarnosc (Solidarity), addressed an open letter to the Mayor of Luban and his deputy, *‘Are you not ashamed that the war cemetery in Kamienna Gora has not been cleaned up to this day? Six months have passed since its devastation. [...] I find no explanation, especially since graves have also been destroyed. As I do not believe that the reason for the delay could be the desire to «manifest» support for heroic Ukraine in such a moronic way. Not to mention the fact that Ukrainians from Red Army may also be buried in the cemetery, hundreds of thousands of them fought in the war. Several Poles were also buried there. I repeat, I do not believe that anyone can think like that. It would be a manifestation of Putin mentality. In our civilisation cemeteries are sacred! Just like that. All of them!’*.

The Kamienna Gora cemetery was also vandalised on the night of 9/10 June 2021. *‘Someone’* destroyed some of the gravestones and painted swastikas. In June 2022, **Krzysztof M.** was charged in court with desecration of a burial place, destruction of property and a historic monument (two similar charges: for June 2021 and February and March 2022) – as announced in a press statement by Tomasz Czulowski, spokesman of the Regional Public Prosecutor’s Office in Jelenia Gora.

OLESNICA. On 25 February, MojaOlesnica.pl (a local online news website) published an article stating that on the first day of Russia’s military aggression against Ukraine, a resident of the city published an extremely xenophobic post on Facebook regarding humanitarian aid for Ukrainians. **Lucja Sz.** wrote, *‘Sure, let them get through doors and windows, haha, let these «brudasy» [an ethnic slur in Polish – translator’s note] get social welfare here!’* In an interview with the website, the woman maintained her earlier opinion: *‘This was one of my comments. I wrote why I have such an opinion about them – they murdered Poles. Whenever you open a website or channel, there is something about Ukraine. [...] And they have better lives than many Poles’*.

WARSAW. On 25 February, **Cezary Krysztopa**, editor of the *‘Tygodnik Solidarnosc’* (*‘Solidarity Weekly’*) website and associate of the right-wing weekly *‘Do Rzeczy’*, who is known for publishing an antisemitic drawing, posted a homophobic comment on his Twitter profile in the context of Russia’s military attack on Ukraine. Krysztopa claimed the war in Ukraine meant, *‘The world of the rainbow dictatorship is coming to an end’*.

WARSAW. On 25 February, one day after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, on the **wRealu24**, a far-right YouTube channel, host **Marcin Rola** made a contemptuous statement about people from Ukraine. Rola said, *‘I’ve dealt with Ukrainians many times. [...] There is a very large intellectual accretion with regard to criminals like **Bandera** and the **UPA** [Stepan Bandera was the leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists** (OUN, which collaborated with Nazi Germany), and of its armed division, the **Ukrainian Insurgent Army** (UPA). In practice, the term ‘Bandera’ is frequently used in Poland today as an ethnic slur against all Ukrainians – translator’s note], and such aversion, which very often turns into hatred towards Poles and Poland; such a strange jealousy – why are Poles in this place and not somewhere else’*. Speaking about the Polish army, he described the meaning of the defense activities undertaken by Ukraine as follows: *‘People [Poles – translator’s note] are supposed to go, to die for Bandera for three or four thousand PLN?’* Rola also mocked the American army units stationed in Poland in a homophobic way, referring to them as, *‘rainbow soldiers from bidet’* [this insult referred to Joe Biden, the president of the USA – translator’s note].



Many anti-Ukrainian and antisemitic comments from viewers appeared under the video, including: *‘after all, this Jewish-Ukrainian government wants war, because nobody will bring them to justice’*, *‘May we not let the Trojan horse into Poland... out of empathy and compassion’*, *‘It’s not Russians who will take over Poland but Ukrainians. UPA units and contemporary Bandera followers’*, *‘Putin would not have done it without a reason if he were not right’*, *‘Bandera will finish us off and the Jews will regain Polin’* [Polin in Hebrew means Poland – translator’s note] and *‘In the end everyone will apologize to Putin’*.

WARSAW. On 25 February, in an interview conducted by **Marcin Rola** on the YouTube channel **wRealu24** (a far-right channel, which often disseminates fake news), MP **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** (a well-known eccentric extremist and chauvinist, as well as admirer of **Vladimir Putin**), of the far-right **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party), stated



that *'Russia has the right to safe borders', and described military intervention in Ukraine as 'understandable'*.

WARSAW. On 25 February, far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) MP **Grzegorz Braun** (a nationalist known for several scandals and antisemitic statements), condemned on Twitter the aid campaigns organised for refugees leaving Ukraine. Commenting on a statement made by the Mayor of Zamosc about preparations for the arrival of Ukrainians in the city, Braun presented a conspiratorial version of events: *'I'm warning you, this joyful hyperactivity of the Zamosc authorities specifically means the creation of demand for migrants – today from Ukraine, tomorrow from God knows where. Over time, they could radically change, not only the social structure, but also the balance of political forces in the Republic of Poland'*. Braun also called for ethnic discrimination in favour of Poles: *'If the Polish authorities are to engage in any «humanitarian actions», these must be primarily humanitarian actions to assist Poles [in Poland or Ukraine]. It is a scandal to prioritise the safety, health and educational problems of neighbours and guests over those of one's own compatriots and citizens'*.

WROCLAW. On 25 February and the subsequent days, former Catholic priest and extreme-right activist **Jacek Miedlar**, published comments on his Facebook and Twitter profiles, in which he fueled a hostile attitude towards refugees from Ukraine, especially dark-skinned people from African and Asian countries arriving in Poland because of the war (according to the data from Ministry of Education of Ukraine in 2020, 80,000 foreigners studied in the country, with most from Africa, the Middle East and Asia). One day after the Russian aggression began, Miedlar wrote, *'Poland in danger! [...] Imposition on Poland of coloured migrants on the border with Moscow's minions. The attack on Ukraine means millions of Ukrainians in Poland = the Vistula operation [the forced relocation of Poles and people of other nationalities from eastern into western Poland after World War II aimed against Ukrainian nationalists – translator's note] is being crossed out, which, in connection with the banderisation [extreme Ukrainian nationalism – translator's note] in Ukraine, paints a gloomy scenario'*. He continued, *'Putin tried to hit Poland with illegal migration of «newcomers» from the Middle East on the border with Belarus. Now, with an awareness of the consequences of the attack on Ukraine, he leads them into our country along with women and children from beyond the river Bug'*.

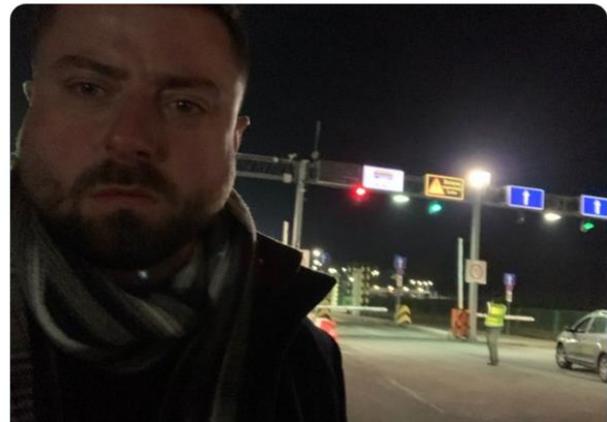
Miedlar published a number of posts in which he used the Volhyn crimes of 1943-1945 to encourage hatred against Ukrainians today. He also manipulated the memory of the Holocaust by using false pseudo-historical comparisons. For example, he stated that, *'The Ukrainians had many years to compensate [us], apologise and allow the exhumation of the Polish victims of genocide. Instead, they chose the worship of beasts, the cult of **Bandera** [a leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists**, which collaborated with Nazi Germany – translator's note]. He also called Ukraine *'the state, which has made a mockery out of our nation by using its historical policy!'**

KOSZALIN. On 26 February, former leader of **KORWiN** (a party created by **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, a well-known eccentric extremist and chauvinist, as well as admirer of **Vladimir Putin**) in Koszalin **Artur Jablonski**, posted an extremely offensive comment on Twitter under a post made by Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky, about the opposition of European Union countries to

Russia's military aggression. Jablonski said the following to the Ukrainian President the following: *'F*ck you! I will dance on your grave. Have a nice night, maybe your last one'*. Following criticism, Jablonski removed his post, but posted a second comment – with a very similar meaning: *'OK, I removed it... All in all, why [sic!] write that I would dance on his grave as I cannot dance'*. To this sentence, he added an emoticon signifying amusement.

MEDYKA. On 26 February and the following days, **Konfederacja** party MP's arrived at border crossings and searched for refugees from African and Asian countries, who had come to Poland from Ukraine. In their video's and posts on social media they questioned their right to seek refuge in Poland, and incited racist sentiment. **Konrad Berkowicz** posted the following statements: *'At the Medyka border crossing there were not a lot of fleeing Ukrainians. Almost only Pakistanis, Iranians and citizens of Morocco'* and *'more evidence points to the fact that the situation of the refugees is being taken advantage of by economic immigrants from outside of Europe'*. Another MP from Konfederacja, **Krzysztof Tuduj**, helped him build this atmosphere of threat and hostility. He posted on twitter: *'At the Medyka border crossing there are a couple hundred people not of Ukrainian descent and I can bet that students from Kyiv are a minority in that group. Is the Border Guard working in accordance with the «let them in and check later» rule? How is migration being monitored?'* In another post, he spread claims (unconfirmed by other sources): *'Is it true that today at the Medyka border crossing a gun was used, more specifically a warning shot was fired because a man not of Ukrainian descent hit a border guard in the face? Have the police caught the perpetrator?'* **Krzysztof Bosak** (Konfederacja MP, and a presidential candidate in the 2020 elections) also published material inciting prejudice against refugees. On 28 February he tweeted: *'We are investigating leads that there are refugees coming through the Polish border that are not Ukrainian but foreigners legally living there but also migrants from outside of Europe. The temptation to deal with the issue by letting them through to Germany without any procedures could exacerbate the problem'*.

Czy @Straz_Graniczna pracuje wg. zasady "wpuszczać, a później się sprawdzi"? Jak monitorowana jest ta migracja?



NIEPOLOMICE. On 26 February, during the second division football match between Puszcza Niepolomice and **Resovia Rzeszow**, the hooligans of the visiting club displayed a huge neo-Nazi banner. It contained the red-and-white logo of the **Blood and Honour** organisation (*'Blood and honour'* was the motto of **Hitlerjugend**). Moreover, it contained a quotation from the song *'Fighting for what's lost'* by the neofascist band **Honor**. The lyrics are: *'The road through the struggle is a firm path to victory / Through the ruins of Jehovah temples, through the dry crackle of the scaffolds / When the fire irreversibly consumes the armies of the hostile races / On the cleansed ground the edifice of White Pride will be erected'*.

POLAND. On 26 February and in the subsequent weeks, Polish hooligans were insulting on the internet the captain of Polish national football team and the Bayern Munich player Robert Lewandowski, who as a gesture of support for Ukraine was wearing an armband with the national colours of this country while playing. He wore the armband for the first time during the Bundesliga match between Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayern Munich (26 February). After the match he posted on Twitter the following comment: *'As an athlete, I can't pretend nothing is happening. #StandWithUkraine'*. Lewandowski wore the blue and yellow armband also during the match between Polish and Swedish national teams (29 March, UEFA World Cup playoff). On the social media, apart from the appreciation for the player and the expressions of solidarity with Ukraine, xenophobic posts also appeared. Some of the Twitter examples follow: *'He used to be Polish', 'Is he a Ukrainian or Polish captain white and red armband not an Ukrainian is Poland worst kind now embarrassing', 'he bowed to the Jews during the match in order not to offend them', 'Is it not enough of gestures to the banderists? What else? Maybe we should create Ukropolin now [the word Polin in Hebrew means Poland]', 'Lewy is a Ukrainian trash', 'I watched him with disgust. Disgrace!', 'It is not our national team anymore. It is an overt betrayal of the Country and of the fans' and 'Kick his gob, f*ck the jerk who wears the foreign colours'.*

WARSAW. On 26 February, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, a Member of Parliament representing **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party), posted a racist entry on his Twitter profile. He referred to a statement of an internet user who criticised the players of the Polish national football team for the fact that in the face of Russia's aggression against Ukraine they did not express their readiness to resign from participation in the upcoming qualifying match for the World Cup in Qatar (ultimately the Polish Football Association decided on 26 February to cancel the match with Russia). Korwin-Mikke commented on his words as follows: *'Did they go to Berlin in 1936? They did... did they play against the Germans? They did... Also: people back then were bolder. In 1936, many were NOT afraid to not make a Nazi salute. But today many footballers ARE AFRAID of not kneeling down in front of Black People'*. In this way, the MP equated a Nazi salute with a pre-match kneeling gesture which as a sign of solidarity with the victims of racism and support for the Black Lives Matter campaign.

WARSAW. On 26 February, the portal wgospodarce.pl published information that the owners of one of the capital's hotels had posted a discriminatory statement inside the building. Its content read: 'Our hotel does not accept Russians'. It was intended to be an expression of opposition to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, but phrased as it was, it amounted to a damaging identification of all Russians with Putin's supporters.



GDANSK. On 27 February, an extremely nationalist march organised by **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)**, a far-right group) under the auspices of the Gdansk Branch of the **Institute of National Remembrance** took place in the city. The hooligans of **F.C. Lechia Gdansk** also participated in the demonstration. At the head of the march, its participants carried a huge banner

with the slogan *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'* (its contemporary meaning encourages ideologically motivated aggression). In addition, they shouted praise for **Romuald Rajs** aka **'Bury'**, the commander of the branch of **Narodowe Zjednoczenie Wojskowe (National Military Union)** which was responsible for the killings of the Orthodox Belarusian population in the Podlasie region (north-eastern part of Poland) in 1946, as well as for **Major Zygmunt Szendzielarz** aka **'Lupaszka'**, accused of war crimes in the Vilnius region in 1944.

LODZ. On 27 February, the local media reported that the organisers of the electronic music event **UDS Soundsystem – Underground Session** were using references to the Lodz Ghetto and the Holocaust in their advertising campaign. The announcement posted on Facebook included the phrases: *'We will play in the area where the Lodz Ghetto – LITZMANNSTADT – existed between 1940 and 1944. [...] Although living conditions were hard, people tried to live a normal life, for example the House of Culture was created and other institutions of public life. Our Ghetto will be filled with dynamic, psychedelic electronic music [...]'*. Jewish organisations protested against this advertisement. Dawid Gurfinkiel of the HaKoach Association said in a media statement, *'This is an instrumental use of other people's suffering to fuel the controversy around the event and to promote it. It is a fact that people tried to live a relatively normal life there [in the ghetto], they created culture, even chronicles were written. But in the end, they were taken to the death chambers. It is tempting to use elements related to Nazism and the Holocaust as strong and attention-grabbing'*. As a result of these protests, the organisers changed the description of the event.

POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDER. On 27 February and in the days following Russia's attack on Ukraine, the media reported that people from African and Asian countries who wanted to move from Ukraine to Poland, were being discriminated against by those working for the border services. One person affected wrote on Twitter that she had been to various border-crossing points and that only Ukrainian citizens were allowed through. When she finally managed to get to Poland, she heard that accommodation was only available for Ukrainians. *'We did not sleep for three days, we had no food, and we walked over 20 km. Why is it that nationality decides who is entitled to rest?'* she reported.

The Embassy of South Africa in Poland intervened in cases involving students. On 27 February, a South African diplomat, Clayson Monyela, reported on Twitter that *'South African students were treated badly on the Polish-Ukrainian border'*.

According to Gazeta.pl (one of the biggest news websites in Poland), a woman from Afghanistan with children was also unable to leave Ukraine as the border guard refused to let her into Poland. Eventually, the Afghan woman and her children were allowed into the territory of the Republic of Poland and were given help.

On 28 February, in a media statement, Deputy Ombudsman, Dr. Hanna Machinska expressed her reservations about the treatment of citizens from African countries, as well as those from Pakistan and India, at border crossings. Referring to the situation in Medyka, Machinska said, *'30 students from Zambia and 30 students from India, could not get out. Here there is chaos. I have the impression that they are treated completely differently. [...] We entered the room where these people had been invited. The conditions were absolutely unacceptable, the procedures were long, it left a very bad impression'*. The Office of the Ombudsman intervened in the matter.

TYCHY. On 27 February, during the second division football match between GKS Tychy and **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala**, the hooligans of the visiting club displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. It depicted an assailant kicking a man lying on the floor and the slogan ‘*Good night left side*’, popular among the neo-fascists.

WARSAW. On 27 February, two photos were published on Twitter on the **Terytorialsi** profile (an official profile run by the **Territorial Defence Forces**). The first photo showed a group of dark-skinned men standing behind a barbed wire fence and trying to break through it. The photo was labeled ‘Migrants’. This photo presented an image of dangerous aggressors. A second photo showed some nice old ladies and was signed ‘Refugees’. The ladies were supposed to symbolise refugees from Ukraine. This juxtaposition of the two photos had a commentary: ‘*The difference between a migrant and a refugee? These pictures say more than a thousand words*’. The post was criticised by many internet users for replicating a racist stereotype. Among others, prof. Jacek Kochanowski from the University of Warsaw wrote: ‘*Bravo! Racism, stupidity and an excellent promotion of WOT [Polish territorial army – translator’s note]. [...] Are white women the only «real refugees»? What if they are fleeing Syria or Ethiopia?*’



GDYNIA. On 28 February, **Konrad Niznik**, an activist for **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party), the party of **Grzegorz Braun** (a nationalist known for antisemitic statements), spread a conspiracy theory through his Twitter profile about the causes of Russia’s attack on Ukraine, repeating the threads of **Putin’s** propaganda. Niznik wrote: ‘*The map of targets in Ukraine that have been bombed coincides with the map of US military laboratories that produce biological weapons, including research on dangerous viruses*’, and provided a link to an article presenting these claims (published on the website **Europe Reloaded**, which promotes anti-vaccine content).

WARSAW. On 28 February, on the YouTube channel **wRealu24**, **Piotr Szlachtowicz** conducted an interview with Dr. **Lucyna Kulinska**, in which Kulinska spread false information and fueled racist prejudices about refugees from African and Asian countries leaving Ukraine (Kulinska was a longtime lecturer at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow. In 2019, she stood for election as a representative of **Konfederacja**, a far-right party). Kulinska delivered the following tirade: ‘*At some of our border crossing points, the number of people with the so-called European skin colour, is no more than 20-30%. All these newcomers from Afghanistan, Senegal and many other countries suddenly received information that Poland had opened its borders and that it was possible to enter Poland without anyone checking their documents, only by bribing the now-unimaginably-rich Ukrainian border guards. [...] I saw a shocking video from a train, which, as we know, are free*

[for refugees – translator’s note]. *It was a train going towards the Polish border [...], in which a man was standing with a knife. It can be clearly seen that this person from a Muslim country and his friend stops the women and children who are trying to get on the train, and shouts and whistles to his lads and burqa-clad women to get on the train. He swings the knife around. [...] It cannot be [...] that under the pretext of saving Ukrainians, we are letting the whole wave of refugees in’.*

WARSAW. On 28 February and the following days a lot of xenophobic and antisemitic comments appeared under an article about an interview with Weronika Marczuk (Polish actress, producer and lawyer, who was born in Kiev) on the Ukrainian community in Poland (published in December 2021 on the Wirtualna Polska website) on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** website. Here are some of them: *‘F*ck off banderist [‘banderist’ is a frequently-used ethnic slur against Ukrainians in Poland today – translator’s note] b*tch, Ukraine is a Polish enemy’, ‘We can let them to the border, let them f*ck off together with this b*tch Marczuk. This is Poland for Poles not for banderist trash and brats’, ‘This is Poland not Ukropolin!!!’ (Polin means Poland in Hebrew), ‘Khazari sidelocks [Khazaria was an Eastern European state in the early Middle Ages which partly converted to Judaism, sidelocks are worn by Orthodox Jews – ed.] want to get their own land back and this is where this so-called war is coming from, but in reality it is a Big Action to Resettle Ukrainians. They will now get everything here in our country that our predecessors fought for, and we will be 2nd class citizens. UNTIL THEY SWEEP US AWAY. The world wars did not work so they duped us via «help for refugees»’.*

POLAND. At the end of February, a lot of racist comments appeared on the Internet, as well as false information about refugees from African and Asian countries who had come to Poland from war-torn Ukraine. Here are some examples of such posts on Twitter:

- *‘This little war was about, among other things, letting in thousands of people from Africa with the total consent of dumb Poles and about giving them apartments and privileges!! Way to go!!! But I’m not going to pay for it!’*

- *‘No words for the human stupidity, what moron believes the police? There are videos with these niggers, you just have to be an idiot without a moral backbone to spread disinformation like that, go turn on the TV, you’ll find everything’* (in response to the police announcement which denied false information about an increase in crime in Przemysl and other areas near the border),

- *‘Can anyone from the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, the police or the Border Guard clean up this black wildness from Africa and Asia, who pretend to be refugees on the border with Ukraine’,*

- *‘If the State cannot cope, if the Border Guard cannot cope with the influx of black people, the police, an [the Spokesman of the Special Services Coordinator, name redacted – translator’s note] and the government pretend that there is no problem, it’s time to take matters into your own hands and, for example, following the example of the **National Guard Association** [an aggressive extreme-nationalist militia connected with the **March of Independence Association** – translator’s note], set up patrols’,*

- *‘These are not Ukrainians, but Pakis from various countries around the world. They attack vulnerable women and children. Nobody will watch such situations with indifference’,*

- ‘Get on with wh*res! They throw women and children out of trains, they stab a woman in Przemysl, and what the f*ck, do they think that they won’t be held accountable?’

POLAND. From the end of February onwards a lot of antisemitic comments and conspiracy theories about the invasion on Ukraine appeared on the internet. Jews were accused of inciting the war, reaping the benefits from it, acting to the detriment of Poland or exercising the real power in Ukraine. Here are some examples of such statements published on Twitter:

- *‘Yeah, Jews want as many victims among young people and most of all men because kids and women end up with us. And Jews when they resettle to Ukraine want to avoid a second Palestine this way’*,

- *‘Jews always wanted to have their Galicia [historic region of eastern Europe that was a part of Poland before Austria annexed it in 1772; in the 20th century it was restored to Poland but was later divided between Poland and the Soviet Union – translator’s note] for themselves, now they’re counting on Russia to share it with them. Support has its price, and its crowded and hot in Israel’*,

- *‘If we live long enough, then Ukrainians and Jews will elect the President here. Poles will have nothing to say anymore’*,

- *‘Jews are desperate, they need black soil so they will take UA’s place to the West of the Dniepr. Russia will be in the East. Ukraine will move from the San to the Oder river. With our approval and with our money we will have a new partition of Poland. Will you still let them into your houses?’*,

- *‘Jews rule Ukraine, rule Poland and everyone can see what this rule has led to and it can only get worse’*,

- *‘Jews are the same as the Russian bandits, liars, scammers. JEWS AND RUSSIANS ARE BANDIT COUNTRIES’*,

- *‘Jews are worse pests than Russians’*,

- *‘Jews are fake trash worse than Bolsheviks’*,

- *‘Jews are creating confusion the most, to incite a war’*,

- *‘They [Ukrainian refugees – editor’s note] can be used to fight against the catholic church because they are mostly Orthodox Christians or Jews like Zelensky’*,

- *‘We are not a multinational country, and see how many internal problems we have. Let’s imagine that Poland has a significant Ukrainian and Jewish minority. We know what Ukrainians were capable of in Volhynia, what Jews are capable of in Palestine’*.

MARCH 2022

LODZ. On 1 March, on the Lodz district Facebook profile of **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Poland Youth**, far-right organization) an entry promoting racist content and expressing false information about refugees from Ukraine of African and Asian origin was published: *‘AGGRESSIVE IMMIGRANTS FROM OUTSIDE OF EUROPE! On trains in Ukraine, gangs of economic immigrants from Africa and Arab countries throw out real refugees just to get to our cozy, warm Europe. Aggressive groups of the «princes of the Orient» attack defenseless Ukrainian and Polish women and rob shops’*.

Under this post, there were many insulting comments and calls for racist violence: *‘Don’t f*ck with them’* (along with an emoticon symbolizing a clenched fist), *‘Football fans will take care of them’*

(along with three symbols of a clenched fist), ‘Get on [the train – translator’s note] with them’, ‘Football fans, get to work!!!’ and ‘That’s why the stray dogs were let in. Border guards do not check their documents, and even let them in without passports’.

PRZEMYSL. On 1 March, near the train station, football hooligans armed with baseball bats and



glass bottles attacked dark-skinned refugees from war-torn Ukraine. Aggressive men were ‘patrolling’ the streets in groups and shouting xenophobic slogans, including ‘Przemysl always Polish’ and ‘Get the f*ck out!’ Among them were football fans of the clubs **Polonia Przemysl, Czuwaj Przemysl, JKS Jaroslaw, Lady Bilgoraj and Karpaty Krosno.**

Four attackers beat up three men of Indian origin. One of the injured suffered a hand injury and required medical attention. The police were informed about the incident.

Another attack was reported by a volunteer who was helping refugees in Przemysl. In an interview with a journalist, he reported, ‘I met a few refugees from Ukraine on the street. They asked for directions to the station. As I showed them where to go, a few cars stopped next to us. Through the open windows we heard: «Get the f*ck out of Poland»’. The men managed to escape, but three of them were attacked by football fans later that day. The volunteer described the incident: ‘They [the refugees – translator’s note] were attacked by men with baseball bats and bottles [the perpetrators were football fans]. Two of them [the refugees] were hit and the firefighters helped them [there were uniformed services on the streets that day, with firefighters among them]. They [the firefighters] escorted them [the refugees, who were attacked] to the station. At Biedronka supermarket there was a third man, who had also been attacked, and his friends. While we were waiting for the patrol, the shop’s customers began to comment loudly that black people had allegedly attacked a woman in Przemysl with a knife. The atmosphere was getting more tense’.

As reported by the news website Oko.press, another aggressive group of masked men also attacked three dark-skinned foreigners. When reporters started recording the incident, one of the attackers shouted, ‘Okay, don’t hit them!’ and turned to the journalists to say, ‘We are defending our women!’ It turned out that the victims were workers from the German branch of Humanity First, an organization helping refugees from Ukraine. One of the workers reported, ‘We were stopped by some people telling us to «go back to the train» and to «leave the country». We turned back, we wanted to wait until they were gone but they came again and attacked us’. The second activist added, ‘We tried to talk to the police and have them escort us to the car. But they refused, saying we were the ones who had to take the risk’.

In a statement for the British daily newspaper ‘The Guardian’, a 22-year-old Egyptian student, who had come from Ukraine, reported, ‘I was with my friends, buying something to eat. These men came

and began harassing a group of Nigerian men. They did not allow the African boy to enter the premises so that he could eat. Then they came up to us and shouted: «Go back to your country»’.

The thugs also attacked a female student from Sudan, using racist insults. They shouted, ‘*Black b*tch*’ at her.

On the same day, a journalist from Israel was attacked near the train station by a group of hooligans.

A recording of another act of aggression, whereby two attackers accosted a black man, was posted on a far-right Twitter account. On camera, the attackers announced that they had used force against the man: ‘*Good evening, Przemysl civic patrol. We are just escorting the gentleman who is walking around Przemysl without documents, he does not know what for*’. The rest of the video has not been made public.

The events in Przemysl were inspired by racist posts published on social media, primarily on Facebook in the **Engineers Przemysl** group (the name comes from a derisive term for dark-skinned refugees from Ukraine, mocking and questioning the fact that among them there were also university students and people with higher education). The authors of these entries accused newcomers from African and Asian countries of committing crimes in Przemysl including raping women, shoplifting and burglary. These kinds of posts, inciting violence and promoting false content about ‘*attacks by immigrants from Africa in the Podkarpacie region*’, were also published on the Twitter profile of **Right Populist (Prawy Populista)**, **Przemysl Always Polish (Przemysl Zawsze Polski)**’s Facebook profile, and the **National Media (Media Narodowe)** portal, which belongs to the **March of Independence Association (Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci)** led by **Robert Bakiewicz** (this organization is subsidized by the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage). Moreover, on the Facebook profile of **Podkarpacie Football Fans (Podkarpaccy Kibice)**, the events in Przemysl were described as ‘*cleansing the city*’.

On 1 March, **Andrzej Zapalowski**, a Professor at the University of Rzeszow and Przemysl city councilor (Zapalowski was elected from the populist movement **Kukiz’15** list, in 1997-2001 he was a member of the Polish Parliament, and in 2005-2009 he was a member of the European Parliament on behalf of the far-right **League of Polish Families – Liga Polskich Rodzin**), published a number of posts inciting aggression and spreading racist fake news. Zapalowski wrote, ‘*As a councilor of the City of Przemysl, I demand that the authorities of my country bring order to the situation where bandits of a different skin color pretend to be refugees from Ukraine! You threw decent people to the ground for not wearing masks! Now show that you can do something with bandits. If not, the townspeople will take matters into their own hands on their own!!!*’ and ‘*The bandits in Przemysl will not get over it. For now, the youth is patrolling the streets. If necessary, the elders will join in. There is no room here for bandits to rampage!!!*’ He also posted an expression of support for the perpetrators of violence: ‘*Civic patrol in Przemysl in action. Congrats, guys!!!!*’ and ‘*Bullseye in Przemysl!!! Gentlemen and ladies! The motivation to play sports is pride!!!*’ Along with these entries, he shared videos of football fans who attacked refugees.

Many racist and violent comments appeared under the councilor's posts, including, *'Chase the scum without mercy, otherwise it will be the same as in the UK and Germany', 'If there are such students you should organize a visit for them to an orthopedist in Przemysl...'*, *'Keep it up! I support, beat these shitters!!!!'*, *'You have to beat them'*, *'Why wait – cans on the back, because gentlemen with olive skin can be dangerous'* and, *'They practice the discipline of chasing the blacks on the streets of Przemysl'*.

Konrad Berkowicz, a far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party MP, also spread some racist fake news. On 1 March, he wrote on his Twitter profile that, *'Przemysl is flooded with immigrants from outside Europe. They are attacking women'*.

These false accusations were denied by the Voivodeship police, who published the following statement on Twitter: *'False information about the increase in crime in Przemysl and in the areas near the border may cause unnecessary anxiety and negative reactions towards foreigners who came from Ukraine. #StopFakeNews'*.

Konfederacja MP **Grzegorz Braun** approved of the acts of racist violence that took place in Przemysl. On the evening of 1 March, he stated on Twitter: *'I support #PatroleObywatelskie [civic patrols – translator's note] in Przemysl and other places! I wish you safe service and a peaceful night'*.

WARSAW. On 1 March during a programme broadcasted on a far-right celebrity's, **Wojciech Cejrowski** YouTube channel, he presented arguments justifying **Putin's** decision to start the war and bearing the responsibility for that on Poland and Western countries. Cejrowski said, among other things, that: *'because of the European armed forces [which are yet to be formed – editor's note] Ukraine is becoming a nuclear state with a big enemy [...] Russian army under its nose. [It is not a surprise] that [Putin] drove in, to secure his front and rear'*. Cejrowski attacked the US President: *'Biden, whose son took money for Ukraine for no reason, and now Biden supports Ukraine because he knows that there is evidence on his son. Biden will support Ukraine to spite Russia, which is dangerous for the whole world'*.

Cejrowski expressed similar views before the war started, for example on 19 February on **Radio Wnet** in an interview with **Krzysztof Skowronski**, the editor of the radio station and the President of the **Polish Journalist Association**: *'This war and inciting this war is more important to Biden than Putin. Putin's goal is Ukraine and not war and Biden's goal is war'*. Skowronski did not react to those words. In another programme in Radio Wnet (from 9 February) Cejrowski commented on the information that a 100,000 Ukrainians live in Warsaw in the following way: *'We should get rid of this problem quickly, because it's a leak of money abroad. And we should give back this work to Poles. [...] If there is just one jobless person in Warsaw, then it means that there is one Ukrainian too many'*.

In relation to Cejrowski's scandalous statements, in some cases organisers cancelled his planned appearances, in Wroclaw (Multikino – cinema network), Poznan (Medical University and Mutlikino), Krakow (Multikino) and Lodz (Jaracza Theatre).

WARSAW. On 1 March and over the subsequent days, Prof. **Adam Wielomski** (lecturer at Siedlce University of Natural Sciences and Humanities, and contributor to the extreme-right bi-weekly magazine *'Najwyższy Czas!' ('High Time!')*) made posts on Twitter promoting xenophobic conspiracy theories and condemning the aid given to Ukrainian refugees. He wrote: *'COVID-19 sceptics very often also display sceptic attitudes towards Ukrainians. Why? Because both groups of people have one thing in common: a complete lack of trust in the big mass media, in what is said in them and towards the ruling political class'* (1 March). Moreover, in reaction to the information that clubs from Ukraine could join the Polish Hockey League, Wielomski stated: *'Has there been a creation of a joint Polish-Ukrainian state, that I have missed due to the flurry of news? As a supporter of the nation state, I am of course against this initiative'* (17 March). In turn, referring to media announcements that the law on assistance to Ukrainian citizens would also cover refugees who arrived from Ukraine via Romania and Moldova, Wielomski despaired: *'Will someone explain to me in a rational way what this is all about? Is this still about helping refugees who found themselves within Poland's borders, fleeing war, or is this a planned and massive drawing of several million people to Poland?'* (18 March).

CHELM. In early March, a 39-year-old resident of the city was charged with inciting ethnic hatred against refugees from Ukraine. According to police information published on Twitter, the man had posted entries on one a social media platform. The posts called for violence, with the author expressing his own readiness to join the attackers: *'Away with those [vulgar word – translator's note]. Gentlemen, let me know if you need help! I will gladly come and assist' and 'Away with them! Zosin/Dorohusk send me a priv, is anyone ready yet?'*

OSWIECIM. On 2 March, the Association of Roma in Poland, published a statement on the situation of Ukrainian refugees of Roma origin who had reached Poland. It gave information about acts of discrimination against Roma and refusals to help them. The message emphasised: *'Polish citizens spontaneously respond to the needs of refugees, organise their transport and place of residence in Poland. Unfortunately, this very human reaction does not apply to the Roma minority, as we have been made aware of by representatives of the Roma refugees'.*

Jerzy Marcol, director of the Biblical Missionary Association from Ustron, released a press statement about the cases of refusals to help Roma arriving from Ukraine on 11 March in a statement for the media. He stated, inter alia, that a Roma family of seven who had reached Poland via the Budomierz crossing had been refused accommodation several times. *'We heard about a request for confirmation that they definitely crossed the border after 24 February and were not merely pretending to be war refugees. Someone else didn't want to say it directly, but between the lines you can hear that they are afraid that these are refugees who will be a burden for a long time, because they will not find a job. It was finally possible to find a place, it was a miracle'*, he reported.

WARSAW. On 2 March, a lawyer, **Pawel Budrewicz** (president of the board of the Warsaw-based Lubie Miasto Association [I Like the City Association] and an expert at the Adam Smith Research Centre) posted a comment on his LinkedIn profile and on his blog, in which he condemned the aid provided to refugees from war-torn Ukraine coming to Poland. He stated: *'The first decision should have been to close the Polish border to Ukrainian refugees'.*

WARSAW. On 2 March, during the ‘*Dzien Dobry TVN*’ broadcast, a model, Monika Miller spoke about xenophobic insults and threats that she had received due to her Ukrainian origin (her mother is Ukrainian and she was born in Ukraine in Kamieniec Podolski in the Khmelnytsky region). She reported: *‘I read comments that it is a shame that I am Ukrainian [...], that Poland is not my country and I should be grateful that Poles help Ukrainians. In short, the message is that if I don’t like something, I should go back to my country, because they will bomb my city and shoot my family anyway. People write to me directly saying that I have to return to Ukraine, because if something happened to me, no one would feel sorry for it’.* Miller also said that before the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, hateful comments had been published online about her based on her nationality.

WARSAW. On 2 March, in a programme broadcast on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** the host **Pawel Zdziarski** disseminated fake news about the Black refugees from Ukraine fleeing to Poland because of the war. Zdziarski said, *‘[There have been] many disturbing signals about attacks or, let’s say, provocations by people who do not look like Ukrainians [...], these could be people who earlier had tried to force their way across the Polish-Belarusian border’.*

In the course of the programme **Lukasz Lech Luksza** expressed his approval of dehumanising and violence-inciting statements which celebrity author **Wojciech Cejrowski** published on Twitter on 2 March. Luksza read out these tweets, *‘The border is being crossed by thousands of NON-Ukrainians. What did not get through from Belarus is now pouring into Poland through Medyka [border town – translator’s note]. Women with children are the minority, while the majority are young sturdy guys, and THESE ARE NOT UKRAINIAN FACES. If the government does not know what to do with it, it should send those football hooligans – they will manage it’* and he reinforced the message, *‘we have really a lot of info of this sort’.*

During the three-and-a-half-hour programme about the Black refugees from Ukraine, offensive statements were also made by **Ewa Karlik** from **Stowarzyszenie Pomocy Polakom we Lwowie i okolicach (Association for Assistance to Poles in Lviv and the Region)**. Karlik referred to the refugees as *‘fake students’* (according to the data of Ministry of Education of Ukraine for 2020, there were 80,000 foreigners studying in the country, mostly from Africa, the Middle East, and Asia) and mocked their skin colour. She said, *‘are they possibly miners from the Donbas region who just came off their work shift and for that reason they are so dirty [...] describing these people as students is offensive to real students’.* Later in the conversation, Karlik described the refugees in an extremely racist manner by saying, *‘In my view, they are like a swarm of locusts, live biological weapons, because, after all, they are on two legs’.*

WARSAW. On 2 March, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube appeared a video with the participation of **Piotr Strzembosz** from the **Stowarzyszenie Wiara i Czyn (The Faith and Action Association)**, which presented refugees from Ukraine as a biological threat to the Polish society. He stated: *‘After all, 500,000 people from a country torn by war, this could be the source of not only the COVID virus, but a number of other very dangerous things. If there is a state of war, people may have difficulty maintaining hygiene, they can transmit various parasites, here let’s not be afraid of that word’.* Strzembosz took up the same thread on the Media Narodowe channel also on 29 March, *‘There [in Ukraine] is a huge number of people who have never been*

vaccinated against other diseases such as polio, tuberculosis, measles, in Ukraine there is, as professor [Andrzej] Horban said in 2017, the largest increase in HIV cases'. Identifying war refugees and, more broadly, people considered 'strangers' with diseases and pathogens is a constant theme of racist hate speech.

Under both videos there were published many anti-Ukrainian comments, including conspiracy theories and incitement to violence: 'Now we have tuberculosis, hepatitis C and HIV', 'These are the effects of letting in Ukrainians and the entire gang to Poland', 'The government has brought millions of refugees who certainly do not infect with diseases? e.g. tuberculosis, viral infections of the liver, HIV, etc.?', '...who cares about it, who allows it and pulls the strings... It will be justified to introduce medical procedures in connection with new varieties, further obligations to prepare [?] citizens. Maybe chips to control them, and then our migration and displacement', 'maybe this «war» was about the ukrainians [sic!] taking over Poland?', 'It looks like we have a Jewish-Ukrainian government in Warsaw with the president as its head', 'Poland for Poles' and 'Beat them up'.

TORUN. On 3 March, on **Radio Maryja** (a religious radio station with connections to radical nationalism), **Tadeusz Rydzyk** (a very influential radical nationalist preacher) made comments that aroused hatred toward refugees coming from Ukraine and other countries. He stated: 'I am afraid that those who should not be here in Poland, against whom we have defended ourselves, will come along with the war refugees. It did not work out in 2015, as they wanted to get a couple of thousand refugees to Poland, to open the borders [...], they used to say those non-Polish Poles'. He continued his tirade based on innuendo and conspiracy theories: 'Yesterday I read that 250,000 or 270,000 Ukrainians came in, half a million of them in total. So who is the rest? Aren't they the ones who didn't get in in 2015, or when they couldn't get across the Belarusian-Polish border [during 2021 migrant crisis - translator's note]? You have to be careful about that. I would be very, very careful here. [...] Today I hear that many people of Indian origin have flown from Ukraine back to India, that they are being brought in. I don't know, you definitely have to be careful here, keep an eye on it. And here I would like to warn you, because this will destabilise Poland'.

WARSAW. On 3 March on the **wRealu24** YouTube channel, **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** once again made xenophobic statements about Ukrainian refugees. He criticised the help given to them and talked about their alleged privileges: 'Who will pay for it, how long will this last and will it end up with a situation that Ukrainians will be let in front of Poles in queues. It already seems that way in administrative offices'. He also claimed: 'Now in Poland and in Ukraine there is supposed to be a different culture, not Polish not Latin but it's supposed to be anti-culture. And let's not kid ourselves, if Ukraine was to be incorporated into Western structures then these anti-culture machines would start working, in fact they have already started working'.



WARSAW. On 3 March, on the **nacjonalista.pl** portal which is associated with the extreme right-wing party, **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski** (the **National Rebirth of Poland**), an article was published by one of the ideologists of this group, **Ronald Lasecki** (associate of **Instytut Spraw Obywatelskich [the Civic Affairs Institute]**), his texts have been published, among others, in the fascist journal *'Templum Novum'*). In the text he expressed his support for Russia in the war against Ukraine. Lasecki described the hopes related to **Putin's** aggression as follows: *'Ukraine must be forced to surrender, its ruling oligarchy deprived of power. Western influence must be completely eliminated from Ukraine and the country must be fully protected from Western penetration'*. Contrary to the information about war crimes, he emphasised the alleged *'[...] efforts by Russia to minimise the unnecessary suffering of Ukrainians. But this is a war, and in a war bloodshed is inevitable'*. Lasecki also presented an opinion on the positive results of the war in the context of the final crackdown on dissidents in Russia itself: *'This price, however, may turn out to be the price of healing for Russia. Aggression against Ukraine – if successful – will be the end of Russian Occidentalism, and therefore also the end of Russian liberalism. [...] Russia's civilizational and economic dependence on the West will lose its raison d'être'*. He also expressed his *'hope for the cleansing of the Eurasian space of Western toxins also on the cultural level. [...] The war with Ukraine, if successful, may be a historical and civilizational catharsis for Russia'*.

LUBLIN. On 4 March, the police reported that four men had been arrested in relation to social media posts inciting hate crimes and attacks on refugees from Ukraine and the Middle East. Replicating the fake news about the alleged threat to the safety of the inhabitants of the Lubelskie Voivodeship, they called for organisation of *'patrols in border towns'* and *'joining forces to clean up the cities'*. The detainees were: a 29-year-old resident of the Wawolnica parish (he made a vulgar entry in which he publicly insulted and incited hatred towards people from the Middle East), a 35-year-old resident of the Melgiew parish, a 30-year-old resident of the Tyszowce parish (who published an entry promoting hate speech in a community group) and a 26-year-old resident of the Kamien parish (he posted entries inciting nationality-based hatred against refugees from Ukraine and the Middle East).

SOSNOWIEC. On 4 March, during the second division football match between **Zaglebie Sosnowiec** and GKS Katowice (derby match of the Silesian Voivodeship), the local hooligans chanted an anti-Roma slogan inciting violence against the opponents. They chanted: *'Kill the Gypsy!'*. The term *'Gypsy'* is considered a slur among the hooligans and is used especially in relations to the specific teams, GKS Katowice among them.

WARSAW. On 4 March in the **Regent** hotel at the crossing of Spacerowa Street and Belwederska Street personnel refused to let a married couple from Russia (the woman was pregnant) to access their reserved room. The reception informed them that the hotel had a *'ban on serving Russians'*. This situation was described in the media by a Polish co-worker of the Russian: *'Igor and Olga had been on the road since the 2 March, going by car from St. Petersburg towards the Polish-Ukrainian border. They carried their Ukrainian friend, whose underage son was left alone in a house in the warzone, after his dad was drafted into the Ukrainian Army. After getting the friend to the border, horribly tired, after a couple of sleepless nights during their travels, on 4 March they went to the*

hotel'. And then: *'For political/nationality reasons the pregnant woman was denied accommodation, even though she was in no way politically involved, and had spent three days in the car helping her Ukrainian friend'*. Since 2021 the Regent Hotel owned by two state corporations: Polish Hotel Holdings and Polish Real Estate Holdings. The PHH's press office claimed that *'there is no ban on guests from Russia' in any of their hotels and 'this incident was a misunderstanding'*.

WARSAW. On 4 March, **Marcin Rola** and **Piotr Szlachtowicz** from **wRealu24** (far-right channel on YouTube) were broadcasting live from the vicinity of the main railway station in Przemysl (the largest transportation hub close to the Ukrainian border). They spread false information about alleged physical attacks by war refugees who were not Ukrainian citizens. Rola described them as *'people with a non-European skin complexion'* (sic!) and, contrary to the police's announcements, stated that *'women are being harassed'*. During a conversation with Szlachtowicz on camera, his *'friend from Podkarpacie region'*, **Krystyna**, repeated fake news about the fact that these people *'attacked the inhabitants of Przemysl'* and praised the bandits (she called them *'priceless football fans'*) who committed acts of violence against dark-skinned refugees.

GDANSK. On 5 March, during the top flight football match between **Lechia Gdansk** and Wisla Krakow, local hooligan supporters displayed a flag in the so-called 'nest' (a place at a stadium where one person organises support for one of the teams) expressing support for **Janusz Walus**, a Polish immigrant sentenced to life imprisonment for a racist murder of Chris Hani in South Africa in 1993 [on parole since December 2022 – translator's note]. The banner presented an image of Walus and a slogan *'Nothing will break you, you are not alone!'*

WARSAW. On 5 March a medical dispatcher refused to send an ambulance to a Ukrainian refugee with an advanced pregnancy, who complained about acute stomach pain (the day before she had been burned with a hot drink). The woman was staying in the hall of Warsaw West railway station, at a refugee help point. A social worker called the emergency services. The dispatcher decided that a burn was not a life-threatening issue and recommended the Ukrainian went to the A&E. In the end policemen who were at the station called the ambulance. In the hospital, an emergency cesarean section was performed. As the local media reported: *'according to the doctors, 15 minutes decided on the life or death of the mother and her child'*. Proceedings were launched against the Medical Dispatcher who answered the call. The findings were made public on 1 April by Ewa Filipowicz, the spokeswoman of the Masovian Voivodship: *'From a detailed analysis of the call it seems that the dispatcher conducted an interview that was not complete. The worker, who refused to send an ambulance has been punished according to the labour laws'* (no additional details were made public in this case).

SULEJOWEK. On 6 March, at the town's railway station in the Minsk district, *'unknown perpetrators'* destroyed glass cases with messages greeting refugees from Ukraine. This event was reported on Twitter by prof. Michal Bilewicz.



WARSAW. On 6 March, Ola Kaczorek, an LGBT activist, wrote on Twitter about a discriminatory announcement that someone had placed on the door of the Panska Corner office building. It read: *'Admission forbidden for persons of Russian nationality'*.

WARSAW. On 6 March, one of the residents of Targowek area hung a racist notice on the entrance door of a block of flats. On a printed piece of paper there was a large inscription: *'This is not Africa, we close the door here'* and a drawing of two palm trees. A friend of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association removed the note on the same day.

GNIEZNO. On 7 March, local media reported that **Jacek Orlik**, pastor of the parish of Saint Maksymilian Kolbe, committed an act of discrimination against Orthodox refugees from Ukraine. When a resident of Gniezno asked him for help in providing accommodation for members of her family fleeing Ukraine, the priest gave a list of conditions that they would have to meet. Among them was the requirement that this should be a *'Roman Catholic or Greek Catholic family'*. The woman replied to this message: *'This is about life, this is about saving people. So now I have to tell them that they are to convert from the Orthodox to the Catholic faith? There is only one God'*. This correspondence with the parish priest Orlik was made public by Artur Kuczma a Gniezno city councilor for the Poland 2050 party. He also claimed that several other people had received a similar response from the priest regarding accommodation for refugees. In one case, he explicitly refused to help Ukrainians because of their Orthodox faith.

WARSAW. On 7 March, on the **wRealu 24** (radical nationalist YouTube channel), the host **Piotr Szlachtowicz**, and his interlocutor, **Wojciech Sumlinski** (a far-right commentator, and director of the film *'Return to Jedwabne'*, in which he questioned the responsibility of Poles for the pogrom of Jews in Jedwabne) fueled prejudice against Ukrainians and espoused antisemitic conspiracy theories. In an exchange of views on the assistance provided to refugees, Szlachtowicz said: *'The identity of the country, Ukraine, is built on Banderism [referring to **Stepan Bandera** – leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists** (OUN), which led ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in Volhynia during 1943-44. In practice 'Bandera' is a frequently-used ethnic slur against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator's note], and I have the impression that Poles have forgotten about it at all'*. Sumlinski responded with the following tirade: *'In the 13th and 14th centuries, when Jews were burned at the stake in Germany and Spain, we welcomed thousands of them here in Poland. [...] Those who welcomed Jews did not suffer any consequences, it was the next generations that suffered and to some extent, we are suffering to this day. [...] We have been paying for it for hundreds of years, because they have always been allied with our invaders, during partitions, during Russian and Soviet invasions. Even today, you could say, we are paying a price for it, for this kind heart'*.

Sumlinski further warned against the alleged threat posed by refugees from Ukraine: *‘Let’s learn from history: our two nations on one land meant a sea of blood, a sea of misfortunes. [...] If we allow a situation in which I really, I don’t know how many, because, there are different estimations, it could be five, three, four million people and indeed most of these people would stay here; my generation may not pay for it as I am 53 years old, but the generation of my children will’*. Later in the programme, Sumlinski managed to somehow connect antisemitic and anti-vaccine conspiracy theories with the context of the war against Ukraine: *‘For me, COVID-19, the madness of the globalists, Gates, the Rothschilds, the Rockefellers, and anyway they all have Jewish origins, let’s not be afraid to say that either that they are recreating the world anew for us, they are aiming at this, and on top of that, **Putin’s** actions or, in fact, I would say Russian-Chinese’*.

POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDER. On 8 March, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube appeared a video entitled ‘The truth about refugees from Ukraine’ by **Brunon Rozycki**, who travelled to the Polish-Ukrainian borderlands: to the border crossing in Medyka, the railway station in Przemysl and a nearby reception point, to check whether there is an *‘oversupply of people of possibly non-Ukrainian origin’* among the refugees. Rozycki walked around the city with a camera looking for people with a skin colour other than white. At the same time, he made bizarre, racist comments. Announcing his material, he expressed the hope that *‘[we] will manage to find out what the colour [...] of those who show up here, looks like’*. Passing by people who had just arrived from war-torn Ukraine, he made the following comments: *‘Here Asians, you can clearly see, Asians pass us by’*, *‘Here we see some Asians. You can see what this colour looks like. Here is a dark-skinned man. [...] There are no huge numbers when it comes to this colour’*, *‘When it comes to facial features, I’m telling you once again, no tragedy here’*, *‘Do we see an oversupply of Arabs here, for example?’* During the broadcast, Rozycki repeated false information about alleged acts of aggression by non-white refugees. He asked one of his interlocutors: *‘So there were actually incidents here [...] only with people who clearly have some Asian features, right?’* Such a false message also appeared in the statements of the interlocutors: *‘I heard that somewhere those Chinese or someone, attacked here somewhere under the Piotrus Pan at the Brama Square or something’*. In response to Rozycki’s words, some residents reacted positively to the violence by football fans against newcomers (such attacks took place in Przemysl on 1 March): *‘It was only when the fans gathered here somewhere to [...] bring order, that the police and other services came and now you can see that it is a bit different [...]’*. Another man stated: *‘They are gone because the people simply cleaned them up’*.

SZCZECIN. On 8 March on the **Zielarz Polska YouTube** channel **Marta Trzcinska** (‘a qualified



herbal-therapist’, who declares herself a fan of Jerzy Ziemba – a propagator of pseudo-science) published a recording titled *‘Enough with f*cking help for Ukr***Ine!!! Thoughtless hypocrites! Ever seen a Trojan horse?’* In it she spoke about Ukrainians and those who help them in a strikingly vulgar and offensive way. Here are selected excerpts of her tirade: *‘Hipocrites, b*tch f*cked up, you give everything for free to Ukraine because the television*

told you to. [...] I hope that those who help out of the goodness of their heart that you will f*cking pay for it the most' and 'You have to kill yourselves and these Ukrainians that you took under your roofs will help you with it, let's wait a few weeks and see'. Trzcinska also shared antisemitic conspiracy theories regarding the war in Ukraine: 'These people should be held in barracks so that it's not too comfortable so that they don't want to stay here, and when the war ends so that they go back to their country. And I'm sure that these people won't go back because the territory where the war is happening has a different destiny' (at this moment the screen shows a graphic with Isaac Bashevis Singer's face, a Jewish writer with a Nobel prize, in a hat with a David Star stuck to it. His picture was attached to disparaging words towards Poles which he supposedly said during the World Jewish Congress in 1996: 'There will be no you, Poles. You will pick food from dumpsters. We have everything figured out. Steadily, slowly, step by step. This country is too rich for us to let you have it. This is our Promised Land'. Singer died in 1991.



The authors of this image probably mistook Isaac Bashevis Singer with Israel Singer – a former secretary general of the World Jewish Congress. There is no evidence that he spoke these words in 1996). Trzcinska's recording had 76 thousand views in a month's time.

WARSAW. On 8 March in an interview on the **wRealu24** YouTube channel **Krzysztof Balinski**, a former Polish ambassador to Syria, spread antisemitic conspiracy theories about the war in Ukraine. He claimed: 'Our older brothers [Jews – editor's note] have for a long time, since the end of the 19th century, had temptations to create something what they themselves called *JudeoPoland* in this region, that is on the former Polish lands, on the *Kresy* [a Polish term for the eastern Polish provinces that were lost to the Soviet Union in World War II – translator's note] where *Ukraine* now lies'. Balinski went on in more detail about his vision: 'Adam Michnik [a former anti-communist dissident and the longstanding editor-in-chief of the liberal daily 'Gazeta Wyborcza' – translator's note] [...] said that his dream is to create a joint *Ukrainian-Polish* country, which he called *Ukr-Pol*. Today we can elaborate on that name and call it *Ukrapolin* [Polin means Poland in Hebrew – translator's note]'.

WARSAW. On 8 March, in an interview on the far-right **wRealu 24** YouTube channel, presenter **Marcin Rola** and MP **Grzegorz Braun** from the **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party talked about the alleged privileges afforded to Ukrainians at the expense of Poles. Braun asked, 'Is it acceptable for a citizen of Poland to be a citizen of an inferior sort? Is it acceptable for Poles to be second-class citizens in their own country? [...] Hundreds of thousands [refugees – translator's note], more than a million today and potentially millions of people in the future, who are going to change, let's call it the cultural landscape of Poland, who have already changed it'. Braun further referred to antisemitic stereotypes (equating Jews with Nazis), addressing the matter of Israel's aid to Ukrainian refugees: 'They segregate the newcomers at home, allow the Jews in and send back those who have not shown that they have Jewish roots. [...] they carry out selection just as on the ramp of Auschwitz'.

WARSAW. On 8 March, the YouTube channel **Media Narodowe (National Media)** carried a programme titled 'SENSATIONAL Theory! The Jews are Profiting from the Russo-Ukrainian War?' with **Przemysław Holocher**, former leader of the **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)** and boss of the extreme right wing foundation **Magna Polonia**. During the conversation, the host **Brunon Rozycki** propagated antisemitic conspiracy theories. He began the interview with his guest with the following introduction: *'The situation in Ukraine has caused that very many theories have appeared and these also talk about the profits, which the Jews could reap from this war. Information about the war taking place in the Middle East intertwines with another theory, since several days very popular, which states that the Jews are planning to organise their own autonomic country in Ukraine. [...] I would like to speak generally about the connections of Jewish communities with the war in Ukraine'*. Answering him, Holocher agreed with the conspiracy theory approach to the subject of the war: *'It is difficult to investigate a theory which is veiled in so much secrecy. Even the sources which I found on the Internet show that there is a secret deal between the governments of Israel and Ukraine. [...] Of course, it cannot be excluded'*. In the programme, Rozycki seriously announced further 'information' in Media Narodowe channel about the conspiracy theory presented by him: *'The theme of the so-called Heavenly Jerusalem will be followed by us and, as far as possible, if any new, confirmed information comes up, we will let you know'*.

WARSAW. On 9 March, in a programme broadcast on the **wRealu24** (a far-right YouTube channel), **Marcin Rola** espoused extremely negative views towards refugees from Ukraine and spread false information about them. He announced: *'We, Poles, will have to work very hard day and night to maintain the refugees'*. Later, he contemptuously asked: *'You know, I am just curious if this fad will end when we see [...] we are disturbed by a person from the other room, whom we took in, and now it suddenly stinks, because this person occupies our bathroom and runs around our house'*. Rola also spread disinformation about the alleged privileges of Ukrainians: *'And here, bam! – they get a personal ID number, bam! – free health care, bam! – privileges for entrepreneurs, setting up a business, no taxes, 500 plus, 300 plus, some starter kits for children [names of aid schemes – translator's note]'* and *'Maybe I should get myself some refugee documents, I will not pay tax, I will have all for nothing, maybe I will get a flat'*. Finally, Rola falsely created a political threat from Ukrainian refugees: *'I am asking: they will soon get voting rights, I am asking seriously, because they will get personal ID numbers – so I understand that a given individual becomes a citizen right away, from the start'*.

WARSAW. On 9 March, the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** YouTube channel released a propaganda video about the alleged privileges of Ukrainians at the expense of Poles. A man who claimed to have come to Poland from Ukraine in 2014 issued a tirade addressed to the Ukrainians: *'Have you come here to get dental treatment? [...] Have you come here thinking that you are allowed to do everything and anything? [...] Do you think you are the Cossacks just by coming here? Oh yes, you have come here, you will shit here and then you will go back. [...] The Ukrainians from Western Ukraine [why have they come to Poland? – translator's note] – there is nothing happening there'*.

WROCLAW. On 9 March, the police arrested a 49-year-old resident of the city suspected of raping a 19-year-old girl from Ukraine, whom he offered help via an internet portal. *'Worth particular*

condemnation is the fact that this woman was in a crisis situation – she escaped from war-torn Ukraine, did not speak Polish, did not know the city and had never been to Poland. She trusted a man who promised to help and shelter her. Unfortunately, all this turned out to be a perfidious manipulation on the part of the 49-year-old’, the police said in a press release. **Krzysztof J.** was charged with rape and sexual abuse of a woman. The Wrocław-Fabryczna District Prosecutor’s Office, who conducted the investigation, requested that the suspect be temporarily held for three months, but this was rejected by the court and he was given conditional bail. On 16 March, the prosecutor’s office appealed against the court’s decision. On March 24, the court in Wrocław issued a decision to immediately arrest Krzysztof J.

WARSAW. On 10 March, in a programme broadcast on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24 Wojciech Sumlinski** (director of the film *‘Return to Jedwabne’* and co-author of books under the same title in which he denied the responsibility of Poles for the anti-Jewish pogrom in Jedwabne) propagated antisemitic conspiracy theories in conversation with the host **Marcin Rola**. Citing the words of **Jerzy Kwasniewski** from **Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture** (a far-right organisation) Sumlinski argued, *‘Our Polish situation is to be so difficult that we should happily accept that what Jews are preparing for us is the lesser evil, meaning this Polin, these claims, this tribute’* (the word *‘Polin’* means Poland in Hebrew; according to the conspiracy theory, Polin is Poland appropriated by Jews). Sumlinski also said, *‘Generally, Jews think exclusively about themselves, that’s simply how they are, let my child die, my mother, my father, but I have to live, I think only about myself. That’s what Jews say and how they act’*. He then referred to the longstanding antisemitic stereotype of Jewish treachery and ingratitude, *‘When Jews always supported our invaders, in more or less every situation, our ancestors had to pay by fighting in uprisings, while Jews supported those who quashed these uprisings. [...] [We] are paying to this day because we see what Jews are doing in Poland’*.

WARSAW. On 10 March, on YouTube, **Monika Jaruzelska** (a Warsaw city councilor) conducted an over one and a half hour long conversation with **Lukasz Warzecha** (a publicist for the weekly *‘Do Rzeczy’*) in the villa of General Wojciech Jaruzelski. The conversation was mainly devoted to the alleged threat from Ukrainian refugees. Warzecha stated: *‘We are in a situation where, from the point of view of those managing the state, it is necessary to make a choice between our own citizens and the others. [...] These unlucky Ukrainians are experiencing a terrible tragedy, but this is Poland, Poland is governed by Polish politicians and they are supposed to take care of Polish citizens’* (Jaruzelska expressed her approval for those words). Further in the conversation, Warzecha warned: *‘Poland will be shattered economically, probably with huge social tensions, with the Ukrainian minority strengthened several times and that will bring mass migration of young people – and this is a misfortune for Poland’*. During the conversation, the *‘Do Rzeczy’* columnist also complained about the presence of refugees at Warsaw’s Central and Western Railway Station. He stated: *‘After all, these are railway stations that Poles also want to use’*, to which Jaruzelska replied: *‘Well, that’s right, for example if they commute to work’*. The host also paid tribute to Warzecha’s recent unfavourable statements about refugees: *‘You were at the vanguard and now you need to pay for it all the time, but I think it will soon turn into a leading voice’*. Later in the programme, Warzecha made the following statement about Ukrainian refugees: *‘These are not people who specifically come*

here to work hard. [...] They are hard-working people, but they are also thieves, scoundrels, and so on’.

WROCLAW. On 10 March, the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association was informed that the ‘*unknown perpetrators*’ had placed an anti-Ukrainian message on the pillar under the Warsaw Bridge. There were words on it: ‘*Bandera w*ores*’ (it refers to the members of the wartime **Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists** led by **Stepan Bandera**, in practice a frequent ethnic slur against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator’s note).

WARSAW. On 11 March, on **TV Republika (Republic TV)**, a far-right TV and YouTube channel), **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** (a far-right commentator) delivered bizarre opinions about the war in Ukraine. Relativising the criminal aggression, among other things, he stated that the attitude of the European Union towards Poland regarding the rule of law, is in fact identical to Russia’s aggression against Ukraine. He also added: ‘*Right now I envy the Ukrainians so much, of course the country is trampled by bandits, by barbarians, but there is no Platforma Obywatelska there [Civic Platform – the main opposition party and nemesis of Polish nationalists who blame it for all evils – translator’s note]*’. In the same broadcast, Ziemkiewicz warned against accepting refugees of non-Ukrainian origin in Poland (he referred to the situation on the Polish-Belarusian border in this way), referring to them as ‘*those crowds of broad-shouldered Ahmeds*’ (contemptuously about Muslim refugees).

WARSAW. On 11 March, on the tram no. 22 an unidentified man insulted a group of passengers from Ukraine referring to their nationality and made criminal threats against them. Police officers from the Criminal Investigations Department of the Warsaw 6th District Police Headquarters conducted an investigation in this case. The man was declared ‘wanted’ and the police published his picture. They have not informed the public, however, whether the perpetrator of the attack has been arrested.

KRAKOW. On 12 March, at the Main Railway Station, a passenger made a fuss in the public toilet, shouting out that ‘*she has to pay 3 PLN for using it, and the Ukrainians have it free of charge*’. A journalist Wojciech Czuchnowski wrote about this incident on Twitter. He also added a comment that the woman had been told that ‘*if her home had been bombed, she would also have been able to use the toilet free of charge*’.

WARSAW. On 12 March, on Zamkowy Square, a rally was held for antisemitic activists and right-wing streamers **Wojciech Olszanski** and **Marcin Osadowski**, who are in pre-trial detention in connection with making criminal threats against deputies. The participants of the Warsaw demonstration presented extremely anti-Ukrainian and antisemitic speeches.



Nabil Al Malazi, vice-chairman of the far-right **Polska Patriotyczna (Polish Patriotic party)**, praised the war against Ukraine. Al Malazi said, *'Russia is acting in accordance with its interests. The purpose of this intervention is to neutralise Ukraine, not occupy it'*. He also denied Russian war crimes and that there were attacks on civilians. He then promoted an antisemitic conspiracy theory, saying that *'A Zionist creation is to be installed there that will rule'* Poland and Western Ukraine. Al Malazi also spread fake news that incited hostility towards Ukrainians coming to Poland: *'They are expelling old people from nursing homes to place refugees there'*.

A similar opinion was expressed by **Piotr Kedra**, who talked about the alleged privileges for Ukrainians and *'the degradation of Poles to second-class citizens'*. He emphatically asked the gathered crowd, *'Will we wait long until Poles are fired and their place is taken by Ukrainians without qualifications?'*

Another participant of the demonstration, presented as *'comrade Jędrzej from **Bydgoskie Kamractwo Rodaków [Bydgoszcz Compatriot Companionship**, a nationalist and anti-vaccine organization]*' described the Russian military aggression as *'a law enforcement intervention in Ukraine'*.

Former Warsaw councilor **Rafał Mossakowski**, leader of the **Centrum Edukacyjne Polska (Poland Educational Center**, known for promoting antisemitism), presented conspiracy theories about the causes of the war: *'The main instigators are the great and the little Satan: the great Satan, i.e. the United States, and the little Satan, i.e. the State of Israel, USrael for short. [...] No wars for USrael!'* He presented a curious antisemitic vision of future events: *'This war has many Jewish contexts. [...] In Ukraine, Heavenly Jerusalem is to be built in 2022. [...] This war, because there are plans that are not told to anyone, is one, great manipulation'*. He then said, *'Citizens of the state located in Palestine are to return to Polin [in Hebrew this word means Poland – translator's note]. [...] Polin is those areas, large parts of Ukraine, to where this nation wants to return'*. He also shouted insults at the editor of daily liberal newspaper *'Gazeta Wyborcza'*, Adam Michnik: *'We will achieve our goal – Adam Michnik in Israel'*. He also said that Ukrainian refugees arriving in Poland, *'is a substitution of the nation'*.

Tobiasz Zuchewicz also spoke at the demonstration, condemning the Ukrainians fleeing the war: *'How easily you leave your country! Why?'* He also copied the pro-Putinist propaganda and called for, *'Ukrainians, stay at home, call your government to stop the war. [...] Give up Crimea! Give up your Nazi apologists'*. Moreover, according to Zuchewicz, the arrival of Ukrainian refugees would prove that the West is *'carrying out an ethnic change'* in Poland.

The final speaker was **Piotr Rybak** (an antisemite repeatedly convicted of inciting hatred), who also stirred up feelings of hostility towards Ukrainians. Rybak said, *'Today in Poland everyone has rights, but not Poles'*.

During the demonstration, the gathered crowd repeatedly chanted the slogan *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'*, calling for ideologically motivated violence.

The rally lasted over two hours, but the police did not intervene.

KIELCE. On 13 March, during the second division football match between **Korona Kielce** and **Resovia Rzeszow**, the hooligans of both clubs displayed banners with neo-Nazi and racist content. The local ‘fans’ hung on the tribune a banner with the letters ‘*BHBD*’ (abbreviation for Polish slogan ‘*Bialy honor, biala duma*’ or ‘*White honour, white pride*’ – a quotation from the lyrics of neo-fascist



band **Konkwista 88**). The ‘fans’ of Resovia in turn hung on the fence around the pitch a banner stating ‘*Blood and honour*’ (motto of **Hitlerjugend**). Moreover, some of them were wearing scarves with the red-and-white logo of **Blood and Honour** (international neo-Nazi organisation) and a quotation from the song ‘*Fighting for what’s lost*’ by the neofascist band **Honor**. The lyrics are: ‘*The road through the struggle is a firm path to victory / Through the ruins of Jehovah temples, through the dry crackle of the scaffolds / When the fire irreversibly consumes the armies of the hostile races / On the cleansed ground the edifice of White Pride will be erected*’.

SZCZECIN. On 13 March, **Malgorzata Jacyna-Witt**, chairman of the **Law and Justice** (currently the ruling party in Poland) club of councilors in the Regional Council of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship, shared a Twitter post about Janina Ochojska, a human rights activist and Member of the European Parliament. The post stated: ‘*This mendacious wh*re is working for someone*’. When to a question from a Twitter user why she supported such content, Jacyna-Witt replied: ‘*I did not call her that myself, because it’s not appropriate for me to do so, but it’s appropriate for me to like it*’. In public statements, Janina Ochojska, repeatedly called to help non-Ukrainian refugees on the Polish-Belarusian border, including after the outbreak of Russia’s war against Ukraine. On 8 March, during a meeting of the European Parliament, the MEP said: ‘*Aid is currently only reserved for some refugees – to those who are culturally closer and speak a similar language. Helping other migrants asking for international protection on the Belarusian border is criminalised, and those providing such support are persecuted*’.

On 13 March, on Twitter, Jacyna-Witt called Ochojska ‘*polonophobic*’, and on 14 March, ‘*a nasty old woman*’. Both comments were the councilor’s reaction to Ochojska’s statements about the need to help all refugees regardless of their origin or skin colour. On 19 March, Jacyna-Witt posted a message with racist content on Twitter: ‘*Poles have accepted refugees from Ukraine into their homes. Do you*

think they would accept the social immigrants/disturbants from Africa in the same way?... We have big hearts and big brains'.

WARSAW. On 14 March, referring to xenophobic and antisemitic conspiracy theories, **Konfederacja** (far-right party **Confederation**) MP **Grzegorz Braun** condemned the display of the Ukrainian flag in the Polish Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament) as a sign of solidarity with the victims of aggression. Braun posted the following words on Twitter: *'Do we already have Ukro-Polin here [Polin means Poland in Hebrew, in this case it is antisemitic conspiracy theory according to which 'Ukro-Polin' would be a Jewish-Ukrainian state, formed after overtaking Poland – translator's note]? Who is the host here?'* The politician attached a photo from the Sejm with the flags of Poland and Ukraine, under which he posed together with **Roman Fritz**, Vice President of Braun's party.

WARSAW. On 14 March, the media reported that in the Grochow district, the municipal police towed a car belonging to a Ukrainian refugee with a disability and charged him with costs 560 PLN. The car had a special marking confirming that the driver was disabled and was parked in designated blue space. **Slawomir Smyk**, a spokesman for the municipal police, delivered a media statement that the officers acted *'in accordance with the law'* because Ukrainian car designations are not respected in Poland. The owner of the car has an amputated leg, suffers from diabetes, and he and his wife had escaped from Lutsk because of the war. Their 20-year-old son stayed in Ukraine. A Polish couple, who provided the refugees with their own apartment, applied for the cancellation of the financial penalty to the Municipal Roads Authority.

KRAKOW. On 15 March, local media reported that the Head of the Board of Education for the Malopolskie Voivodeship, **Barbara Nowak**, made discriminatory decisions that made it difficult to admit children from Ukraine to schools. Nowak provided school directors with guidelines on the acceptance of Ukrainian children to schools, according to which *'the criterion of knowledge of the Polish language should be applied'*. The non-compliance of these guidelines with the existing regulations was indicated in a press statement by Anna Korfel-Jasinska, vice-president of the city responsible for education: *'It is not compulsory to go to the preparatory department, even if you do not speak Polish. If the parents choose an open class for their child, the child should be admitted'*. Nowak also blocked efforts made by Krakow City Hall to increase the quota of students in classes (from 28 to 37) in order to provide access to education for children from Ukraine. According to the media, after the announcement of new guidelines by Barbara Nowak, the August Witkowski High School in Krakow refused to accept several Ukrainian students.

TORUN. On 15 March, prof. **Jacek Bartyzel** (lecturer at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun and the **Academy of Social and Media Culture** in Torun founded by **Tadeusz Rydzyk**, a Roman Catholic priest and the director of the **Radio Maryja** station and TV station, known for antisemitic statements) posted a comment on Facebook fueling hostile sentiment towards Ukrainians coming to Poland. He wrote: *'This is not humanitarian aid for people fleeing war or refugees [...], but a great resettlement action – comparable to the one after 1945 – which may irreversibly change the ethnic*

structure of Poland, because the newcomers who receive privileges greater than those of the Polish population, have no motivation to return to a ruined country, even if the war ends’.

These xenophobic words were repeatedly quoted in public statements by **Grzegorz Braun** a member of the **Konfederacja** (far-right party **Confederation**). Braun is a nationalist known for antisemitic statements. Among other things, on 17 March Braun posted a graphic on Twitter with the above quote and a photo of Bartyzel along with a comment *‘I share these concerns’.*

WARSAW. On 15 March, **Fundacja Zycie i Rodzina (Life and Family Foundation** – an extremist anti-abortion and conservative organization) led by **Kaja Godek** (a candidate for the European Parliament in 2019 from the list of far right **Konfederacja – Confederation** party) launched an anti-abortion campaign aimed at refugees coming from Ukraine. The foundation called for handing leaflets to women who had just fled from a country engulfed in war. The leaflets contained graphic photos of fetuses, information on penalties for abortion and the words *‘The greatest threat to peace is abortion’.* Godek stated that her foundation had printed 200,000 such leaflets in Polish and Ukrainian. Many comments appeared on social media condemning the use of the dramatic situation in which Ukrainian women found themselves for ideological purposes. Social activist and Sejm deputy Wanda Nowicka said, *‘Instead of supporting war victims, Godek wants to indoctrinate them and distributes anti-abortion leaflets in Ukrainian. Fanaticism, hatred, and disrespect for women, including Ukrainian women, poison social life and simply bring harm!’*

WARSAW. On 15 March, the **National Rebirth of Poland (NOP, far-right party)** published a bizarre manifesto in which responsibility for Russia’s aggression against Ukraine was attributed to the United States and the European Union. The NOP stated that the war was due to the *‘expansion of the spheres of influence of the American Empire, strengthened by the support of the new entity of the post-Yalta order – the centralist behemoth called the European Union. In spite of themselves [the Ukrainians – translator’s note], were chosen as guinea pigs for this U.S. imperial policy’.* The manifesto continued, *‘the moral and political responsibility for the outbreak of this war is therefore obvious: it lies with the United States, which seeks to expand its sphere of influence and military control in Europe, and the European Union, which has been corrupting the Ukrainian establishment for years, preparing the country to lose its short-lived independence’.* It was only at the end of this list of conspiracy theories and ideologies, that NOP representatives mentioned Russia. In addition, they demanded that one of the *‘necessary’* international actions was *‘the immediate withdrawal of Brussels from its efforts to occupy Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova’* and the withdrawal of NATO troops *‘behind the Elbe line’* [sic!]. The manifesto also contained antisemitic allusions: it condemned *‘the «democratic» regimes – whether their actual helmsmen sit in Moscow, Brussels, Washington or Tel Aviv’.*

KIELCE. On 16 March, the police arrested a city resident who was trying to extort money from a Ukrainian citizen, offering her to rent a non-existent apartment. *‘On one of the social networks a young woman made an announcement that she wanted to rent a flat for her family, who arriving from war-torn Ukraine. She was contacted by a man who said that he had an apartment to rent, but that there was big competition to rent it. The 21-year-old Ukrainian, wanting to ensure the priority of renting, gave the stranger several hundred zlotys using a Blik [mobile payments app] code’.*

informed Assistant Police Commissioner Karol Macek, press officer of the Kielce Municipal Police Headquarters. During the meeting, the Ukrainian woman gave the man an additional amount of money, and in return she received the keys and – as it turned out – a fictitious apartment address. The woman notified the police about the incident. The man was charged with fraud and imprisoned for three months.

GDYNIA. On 17 March, Arka Gdynia football club announced on Facebook that refugees from Ukraine would be able to receive free tickets to the team's next league match (against GKS Katowice). This gesture of solidarity with the victims of the war was condemned by some Polish 'fans'. In response, they published numerous xenophobic comments about the alleged privileges of Ukrainians at the expense of Poles, claiming that refugees are in Poland on '*all-inclusive holidays*', '*they get everything for free*' and '*they are not being harmed in any manner*', because '*many of them are rich*'. Other examples of such entries include: '*I would suggest getting interested in our fan clubs from distant areas, such as Człuchów, Czersk, etc., and making tickets free for inhabitants of those towns and districts, and not forcefully attract people who don't give a f*ck about Arka... and, after one match, we will probably never see them again*' and '*No worries, fans with season passes will have a 50 PLN ticket price increase next season*'. Arka Gdynia reacted to these entries in a decisive manner. The ironic answer proposed that Polish fans who demanded free tickets should receive them – but '*in the company of teenage Ukrainians who have been training in our club for several days and will be happy to tell you how they spent the last weeks*'. The position of the club from Gdynia received approval in the world of sport and beyond.

LEGNICA. On 17 March, under the banner of **Confederation of the Polish Crown** (far-right political party), a meeting was held with **Marcin Rola** (founder of the YouTube channel **wRealu24**), **Wojciech Sumlinski** (director of the film '*Return to Jedwabne*', in which he denied Polish responsibility for the crimes in Jedwabne in 1941) and MP **Krzysztof Tuduj** from **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party), and member of **Ruch Narodowy – National Movement**). During his speech, Rola once again fuelled prejudice against refugees from Ukraine and reproduced false information. He declared: '*Soon we will have five million people here which we will need to support*'. Referring to Katarzyna Ratkowska – the doctor who was suspended for a year for promoting anti-vaccine content, he stated: '*It was probably an attempt to make room for a doctor from Ukraine*'. Rola also spoke disrespectfully about black and brown refugees from Ukraine: '*I was in Medyka and in Korczowa, there were several characters who looked like they had just finished a harsh solarium session. [...] Why the hell was there a wall built on the Polish-Belarusian border, if all this companions anyway crossed the Ukrainian-Polish border, this is just crazy*'. Furthermore, in the context of the war against Ukraine, Rola cited one of the more bizarre antisemitic conspiracy



theories: *‘Additionally the Heavenly Jerusalem project – because why not? Do you remember Operation Bridge at the beginning of the 90s? Did the WSI [Military Information Services (WSI) was a common name for the Polish military intelligence and counter-intelligence agency. The agency was created in 1990 after the Revolutions of 1989 ended the Communist regime – translator’s note] smuggled something over one and a half million Russian Jews to Israel? And there are huge problems with water there, and with the Palestinians on the other side. Is this really impossible, unrealistic?’* Meanwhile, in reference to the coronavirus pandemic, he stated: *‘There came out this study done by a Jewish banana in America stating that anyone who denies the pandemic is also an antisemite. [...] Truther, crank, flat-earther, antisemite, Nazi, fascist – all beautiful epithets’.*

During the meeting, Wojciech Sumlinski also linked the alleged threat from Ukrainian refugees to an antisemitic conspiracy theory: *‘In the film «Return to Jedwabne» we show that the Jews divided Poland among themselves and in the book [under the same title] we include documents created and signed by American, Israeli and Polish Jews, who could not agree on what would belong to whom in this Polin [in Hebrew it means Poland] which they are building. [...] We are exposing the Jews today’.* Sumlinski referred to Rola’s antisemitic arguments as follows: *‘And we still got the Heavenly Jerusalem [...]. There is no more water in Israel, there are problems with everything, Israel is looking for a new place for its citizens. Polin is one thing [...], there must be a migration happening, because it [Ukraine] is the second place besides Polin that [Jews] have taken a liking to. [...] There will be a great exodus of population from the south of Ukraine, I don’t know how they will do it, but they will move this population to make room for Jews’.* He also repeated well-known antisemitic accusations in the context of the coronavirus: *‘It is the Jews, the great globalists of this world [who] invented COVID-19’.*

LODZ. On 17 March, Fr. **Marek Bak** (a resident of the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Assistance in Lodz) in an interview broadcast on a YouTube TV channel called **Christ the King TV** (broadcast from the USA) pronounced on a number of anti-

Ukrainian and antisemitic conspiracy theories. He criticized the help given to refugees: *‘Those who come here do not really come from the areas where there is war’.* Discussing the alleged privileges for refugees, he stated: *‘Ukrainians come here as if to their own place, for their own benefit. I would be very careful. [...] Gratitude is not one of their virtues. [...] These are not people of our culture. [...] We will cease to be a Polish nation state’.*



The host of the programme, **Krystyna Kiwacz**, quoted another bizarre conspiracy theory: *‘Ukrainians certainly feel very privileged and who knows what is behind all this. Might it be preparing a place for Jews?’* This was then developed by Fr. Bak as follows: *‘There is a place being prepared for Jews. One hears of a Heavenly Jerusalem that would be placed in the former territories of southern Poland, areas now in the hands of Ukraine. The Jews would move there from Palestine. [...] These are the best lands in the world and they could farm and bask in luxury there. That is why this quasi-war has broken out. It has the hallmarks of a war, but it is not a war in the classical sense’.* When discussing the causes of Russia’s aggression, the priest also referred to other conspiracy theories: *‘There are fifteen laboratories active in the*

*production of biological weapons in Ukraine, and Putin opposes this'. Further, he stated: 'The Jews, who rule Ukraine, want to join both NATO and the European Union. [...] And this is what Putin is referring to'. Moreover, Bak stated that with the arrival of the Ukrainians, 'there will be more murders in Poland'. In his fanatical arguments he also included refugees from Ukraine of African and Asian background: 'throw Poles out of Poland, replace them with Ukrainians, whilst among these pseudo-Ukrainians 10 percent are coloured people, who knows where from'. The presenter echoed his words: 'With such an influx of immigrants, will there still be a Polish state, or will it be Polin?' (Polin means Poland in Hebrew). At the end of the interview, Fr. Bak repeated the lie about the President of the Republic of Poland declaring that 'his grandfather was an **UPA [Ukrainian Insurgent Army]** led by **Stepan Bandera**, armed division that collaborated with Nazi Germany – translator's note] lieutenant and participated in the murder of Poles. So what kind is his blood? He is partly Ukrainian himself, he is not a pure Pole. His family is hardly Polish. Jews rule in Ukraine, and likewise in Poland we are under the influence of Jews who have us at their disposal. They organize our lives in such a way that we can barely live. [...] I wonder if our enslavement might have been lesser in the times of Judeo-Communism than today'.*

MEDYKA. On 17 March, the Oko.press website described cases of discrimination against dark-skinned refugees arriving from Ukraine – for example, on 28 February, an Afghan family (who had lived in Ukraine for 10 years), including a woman who was heavily pregnant, was repeatedly refused transport by bus drivers and private people – who preferred to transport non-white refugees: *'I asked Marek from Tychy, who has a bus, if he would take a family of twelve with six children and a pregnant woman to the H2O center in Skoczow, where I had found a place for them. He agreed willingly. But when he learned that they are Afghans (some of the children have Ukrainian citizenship), he found more and more problems. «They will detain me, because these may be illegal refugees from Belarus», he said, and finally refused to drive them. I couldn't find any transport. I lost contact with them'. Another incident was at a bar in Medyka, where a saleswoman threw a dark-skinned man out. 'He did nothing. He just walked into the store. «They are cattle!» - for a few minutes [the woman] spat venom at the «coloured people»' – reported the journalist.*

The article also describes racist behaviour that took place in **PRZEMYSL**. One of the town's inhabitants hosted some Syrians who had lived in Ukraine until the war. She reported: *'When two of them went shopping nearby – they wanted to prepare Syrian food for everyone – they were caught by local football hooligans. One Syrian was hit with an elbow, and they ordered both of them to «get the f*ck out of here». The next day, the refugees left the apartment again. This time they were stopped by the «civic guard of the neighbourhood». They kept them until their daughter was able confirm that they were staying with her'. Sikhs from Austria also got involved helping refugees (volunteers from many countries came to the Polish-Ukrainian border). However, when they were setting up a stand to serve meals in the parking lot on Lwowska Street, they heard from the volunteers' coordinator: 'You cannot stay here', even though their presence there had been previously agreed on. According to Oko.press, 'only after the intervention of another Pole and negotiations did the coordinator change his mind'. According to the website, the cooperation with the volunteers was to be supervised by the far-right activist **Mirosław Majkowski**, known for his anti-Ukrainian speeches.*

WARSAW. On 17 March, the far right **Konfederacja (Confederation party)** organised a press conference in the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament) aimed against Ukrainian refugees, under the slogan *‘Yes to help, no to privileges’*. In their speeches, the members of Konfederacja fueled xenophobic prejudices, arguing about the alleged privileges of Ukrainians at the expense of Poles. MP **Michał Urbaniak** criticised the support shown to people who escaped the war: *‘The refugees are allowed to use public transport for free. [...] The city of Lodz is an interesting example, because some people will have free public transport there, and the citizens of Lodz will see ticket prices increase’*. Urbaniak also warned against *‘dilapidated’* aid, *‘through which someone received privileges that currently do not belong to Poles’*. In turn, **Grzegorz Braun**, referring to Prof. **Jacek Bartyzel** (a lecturer at the **Akademia Kultury Społecznej i Medialnej** – the **College of Social and Media Culture** in Torun, founded by **Tadeusz Rydzyk** – a Roman Catholic priest and the director of the **Radio Maryja** station and TV station, known for antisemitic statements), said, *‘This is no longer helping war refugees, this is resettling people’*. He also added, *‘This is aimed at a radical transformation of the Republic of Poland into some other country. [...] These are not war refugees, but displaced people’*. Due to its xenophobic nature, the press conference was boycotted by journalists. Jan Strzeżek, spokesman for the Porozumienie (Agreement party), said of Konfederacja’s actions: *‘It is disgusting to rescue your ratings in the polls by attacking women, children and seniors who are constantly on the run from Putin’s military machine’*.

ZIELONA GÓRA. On 18 March, on Głogowska Street, in the **ForRest** hotel, a meeting was held by the far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation party)** MP **Grzegorz Braun** (a nationalist known for antisemitic statements), during which he mocked the victims of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and presented Ukrainian refugees as a threat to Poland. He spoke about the ongoing war on the territory of Ukraine: *‘My appeal: ignore it!’*[i.e. ignore the war – editor’s note]. He also condemned the provision of humanitarian aid to Ukrainians: *‘Whoever rushes to the aid of the hungry in distant corners of the world, and has his own children malnourished, sins’*. He argued about the alleged privileges of Ukrainians at the expense of Poles: *‘The Ukrainian Plus Act is an act of explicit discrimination against Poles’*. Fostering a xenophobic mood, Braun once again referred to the statement of Professor **Jacek Bartyzel** (a lecturer at the **College of Social and Media Culture** in Torun, founded by **Tadeusz Rydzyk**, a Roman Catholic priest and the director of the **Radio Maryja** station and TV station, known for antisemitic statements), saying *‘This is no longer helping war refugees, this is resettling the population. [...] This is the Vistula Operation 2.0’*. He later said, *‘In a moment we will have a completely different country, but I do not know if this will be Poland’*. He also said that it was necessary to *‘set conditions’* for Ukrainians coming to Poland, *‘They should decide who they want to be, whether they want to be a nation of special care until the end of the world?’*

POZNAN. On the night of 18/19 March, pseudo-fans of **Lech Poznań** (football club) staged a loud display of pyrotechnics in front of the city stadium on Bułgarska Street to commemorate the club’s 100 anniversary, the sounds of which were reminiscent of wartime explosions. It took place near two refugee shelters that are temporarily hosting several hundred refugees from Ukraine: the Arena hall and the Poznań International Fair. Many of the city’s residents expressed their outrage at the hooligans behaviour on social media. Prof. Andrzej W. Nowak from Adam Mickiewicz University in

Poznan spoke publicly on the matter: *‘Someone thoughtlessly decided to cover the sky with a cannonade at midnight in a city where many refugees from the war zone have found shelter. Hasn’t it crossed their minds what the people living in those temporary camps in Arena and at the Fair, might experience when seeing and hearing those explosions through the windows?’* Meanwhile, Lech Poznan’s spokesman **Maciej Henszel** praised the setting off the pyrotechnics by the hooligans. He posted a video of the cannonade on Twitter with the following comment: *‘Best wishes to our beloved club!’* Speaking to the media, he laconically stated: *‘The club did not organise it and I will therefore not comment on it’.*

PILA. On 19 March, the **Salesian Society of St. Jan Bosko** made the auditorium available for a meeting with MP **Grzegorz Braun** (a nationalist known for spreading antisemitic conspiracy theories), member of the **Konfederacja (Confederation, far-right party)**. It took place within the walls of the Secondary School of the Salesian Society of St. Jan Bosko on Dembowski Street, the director of which is priest **Artur Kucharski**. Originally, the meeting was supposed to take place at the Gromada Hotel, but due to numerous objections from the guests and residents of the city, it was canceled. The hotel owners publicised the decision in a statement and additionally stressed: *‘We would like to inform you that the Gromada Hotel in Pila supports refugees, for whom we have allocated several dozen rooms for accommodation’.* Since the first days of the war in Ukraine, Braun has been making xenophobic comments and promoting conspiracy theories during meetings organised in various localities, as well as criticising the aid provided to refugees. His speech in Pila with the Salesians was boycotted by the local media. The editorial office of *‘Glos Pilski’* newspaper sent questions to the school’s headmaster, Father Kucharski, asking whether they were *‘not disturbed by the views of MP Grzegorz Braun on helping refugees from Ukraine, which have little to do with the attitude of hospitality and kindness encouraged by the Polish Church? Isn’t the school, in his opinion, appropriate place for political rallies? Did the parents of the students know about the meeting?’* These questions remained unanswered.



Meanwhile, on 18 March, the Rector Major of the Society of St. Francis de Sales, priest Ángel Fernández Artime SDB, wrote a letter to the Salesians in which he called for action on behalf of Ukraine and refugees. The priest expressed special thanks to the Salesians from Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Moldova and Romania: *‘I know that many Salesian houses welcome refugees, bestowing them with great dignity’.*

SEROCK. On 19 March, during a local football match between Pomorzanie Serock – **Elana II Torun**, ‘fans’

of the visiting team hung a banner with racist content on a fence around the football pitch. It bore the slogan 'White Elana'.

WARSAW. On 19 March, on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel, in an interview with **Jan Bodakowski**, the commentator Dr. **Marcin Masny** said that in Ukraine there were allegedly 'American laboratories with pathogens', which the Russians 'treat as a weapon, thus they may well be afraid that Western weapons of mass destruction are very close to their borders'. Masny further said: 'Russia is not trying to build an empire. There have been no imperial activities in Russia since Soviet times. What some call imperialism are [...] acts of defense'. Marcin Masny has in the past cooperated with, amongst others, the extreme-right bi-weekly magazine '**Najwyższy Czas!**' ('**High Time!**') set up by **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** (leader of the **Konfederacja – Confederation** party) and had been a candidate for the European Parliament in 2009 from the list of the far-right party **Libertas**.

WARSAW. On 20 March, on the **Biznes Misja** YouTube channel, columnist **Piotr Zychowicz** (member of the editorial board of the right-wing weekly '**Do Rzeczy**') expressed shocking opinions on the war against Ukraine and the international situation. He stated that: the 'Cold war is in our interest, it is certainly not in our interest to overthrow Putin immediately' and 'the best recipe for security and peace in the world is, of course, nuclear weapons'.

Moreover, Zychowicz called for Poland not to accept non-white migrants: 'The Polish model to attract workers from Ukraine and Belarus is, of course, 1000 times safer and better than the model of colonial states such as France, which brought these people from Africa and the Middle East – for a million reasons obvious to viewers'. Zychowicz also argued about the possible negative effects of appearance of a large number of Ukrainians in Poland: 'These people [refugees from Ukraine – translator's note] for example, now they require medical care, a lot of people have come with very serious illnesses, and the Polish health service had problems with treating Poles'. These statements were published under the title: 'The twist in negotiations with **Putin** – the end of the war is not in the Polish interest'.

WARSAW. On 20 March, in the programme on **Telewizja Republika** (far-right TV and YouTube channel) hosted by **Rafał Ziemkiewicz** (a commentator known for his nationalism), **Lukasz Warzecha** (a popular columnist for the right-wing weekly '**Do Rzeczy**') fueled prejudices against Ukrainian refugees who had come to Poland: 'There will be a problem with jobs, this may also mean increased tensions, because there will necessarily arise such situations that «Ukrainians are taking my job». This problem will surely be raised'. He also complained that Ukrainians had allegedly been granted 'all possible benefits. [...] Could this not have been limited? Secondly, I believe that some privileges or conveniences for refugees are planned very poorly. [...] Free travel for everyone with Ukrainian ID, including those who have been here for ten years and have nothing to do with refugees'. Stanisław Janecki, who was invited onto the programme, responded to these words: 'They have a lot to do with the refugees, because they have taken them under their roof'. Warzecha continued: 'When this ends, there will begin problems' and added 'We are not here in some «Open Your Heart» programme', which was met with Janecki's retort: 'We are not here in some «What a son of a b*tch you are» programme [...]. This is a drama of two million people, and you are making some theoretical

deliberations. [...] You do not bear any consequences, because you do not identify with anyone, you are not helping anyone’.

WARSAW. On 21 March, on the **wRealu24** YouTube channel of the **Banbye.com** platform (a far-right streaming platform founded by **Marcin Rola**), **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** condemned Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki’s social media post of a photo with the Ukrainian flag, shared as a sign of solidarity with the victims of the war. Stirring up xenophobic contempt and invoking conspiracy theories, Luksza said: *‘I think he got the wrong flag! I don’t know if anywhere there was a situation where the prime minister of a country sets up the flag of a foreign country next to him. Oh dear, I said a terrible heresy, Ukraine is a foreign country! Contrary to what the actor Zelenski, Duda and others are saying, Ukraine and Poland are not the same thing, we have conflicting interests on many levels, and this is something that is not being discussed. Of course, this does not mean that we want to fall into Russia’s hands, this part of the «Russian world», a foreign civilisation, a lower civilisation. By the way Ukraine also belongs to it, to a large extent’.* He also added: *‘If [the Prime Minister] dares to set himself the flag of a foreign country, the question is whose interests is he pursuing? [...] Mateusz Morawiecki has completely discredited himself by putting up this flag’.* In the same programme, Luksza showed a photo of cookies in the colours of Ukraine – produced as a gesture of solidarity by one of the pastry shops – with the caption: *‘Glory to Ukraine cake’.* He commented with the words: *‘I honestly wouldn’t swallow it, I would rather vomit because of that slogan’.*

WARSAW. On 21 March, an interview with **Tomasz Grabarczyk**, a spokesman for **Konfederacja** (the far-right **Confederation** party), was broadcast on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** YouTube channel. Grabarczyk described refugees from Ukraine as *‘a financial threat to Poland’.* According to him, granting refugees social rights may *‘encourage these people to stay and remain in Poland, unfortunately, not on the basis of work, but on the basis that they receive something from the Polish state’.*

SOSNOWIEC. On 22 March, a primary school teacher was suspended from her duties due to anti-Ukrainian content she published on the internet. According to *‘Gazeta Wyborcza’* (a major liberal newspaper), a few weeks before Russia’s attack on Ukraine, the woman wrote: *‘Ukrainians have been and are often involved in smuggling people’, ‘Both Russia and Germany have always been Poland’s enemies. Ukraine too, so don’t cry over Ukraine’.* The teacher was also active on Twitter, where she disseminated (retweeted) anti-Ukrainian and antisemitic content, for example: *‘Ukraine is a hostile country to us’ or ‘Kosher people absolutely want to draw us into the war. Let us not give up. We know who will benefit from it. We know that Poland and Poles will suffer the greatest sacrifice. As usual. Let’s not be dumb’.* She had also written longer, xenophobic texts for several years. In one of them, she stated that the Ukrainians *‘are steeped in hostility towards Poles and boast of the mentality from the times of the Volhynia massacre’* (**parezja.pl**, May 2017). According to Rafal Lysy, spokesman for the City Hall in Sosnowiec, the case of the teacher’s behaviour would be dealt with by the disciplinary spokesman of the Silesian Board of Education, and would also be reported to the prosecutor’s office on charges of inciting national hatred.

WARSAW. On 22 March, in a program broadcast on the **National Media** channel on YouTube, the host, **Brunon Rozycki** and his interlocutor, **Marian Miszalski** (commentator for the far-right magazine *'Najwyższy Czas!' – 'High Time!'*, and author of a book under the title *'The Jewish Political Lobby in Poland'*) promoted anti-Ukrainian and antisemitic conspiracy theories. This broadcast was entitled: 'Marian Miszalski on «Heavenly Jerusalem». Is this a true theory?' To Rozycki's question: *'To what extent does this concept of Heavenly Jerusalem, which claims that Ukraine is to be inhabited by the Jews, make sense?'*, Miszalski replied: *'Is such a Judeo-Ukraine possible? We do not know what will arise when the Ukrainian quarrel ends'*. And later: *'It is possible to build a second Israel in Ukraine, there are many indications for this. [...] The Jewish lobby in Ukraine is very powerful, when we look at the present government, where the president and the minister of defense are of Jewish origin. [...] If a Jewish government resembling the Mazowiecki government in Poland in 1989 is installed in neutral Ukraine [...], with the support of the Jewish lobby in America and Israel, building a second Israel in Ukraine would be very real'*. Both interlocutors freely developed their conspiracy theories: *'Could Putin consciously participate in this project?'* (Rozycki), *'It is very possible that such a neutral Ukraine, but ruled by a strong Jewish lobby, Judeo-Ukraine, could be used by Putin for further purposes'* (Miszalski), *'Putin is pleased that such a number of refugees are flowing into Poland. [...] These hostilities in the East are exceptionally delicate, although we are dazzled by these photos and explosions. [...] The depopulation of eastern Ukraine is favourable for Putin, the Jews and perhaps the West'* (Rozycki). Within a week, this broadcast gained over 100,000 views on YouTube.



WARSAW. On 22 March in a programme lasting almost 40-minutes on the **Pro vita bona Research Institute Foundation** channel of the the **Banbye.com** platform (a far-right platform founded by **Marcin Rola**), two political scientists, Prof. Adam Wielomski (lecturer at Siedlce University of Natural Sciences and Humanities, and an associate of the extreme-right bi-weekly magazine *'Najwyższy Czas!' ['High Time!']* and **Malgorzata Zietek-Wielomska** (president of the above mentioned foundation) presented a friendly discussion of **Aleksander Dugin's** manifesto *'The Great Awakening'*. Dugin is the founder of the neo-fascist ideology of so-called National Bolshevism and a leading apologist for **Putin's** aggression against Ukraine. According to Wielomski, Dugin's ideology is an alternative to the so-called *'great reset'* allegedly planned by world elites and the so-called *'globalists'* (a conspiracy theory according to which a communist world order is to be introduced and a pandemic is to be used to solve the problem of overpopulation and to enslave the part of humanity that survives with vaccines). They also encouraged viewers to read Dugin's writings published by the editors of the pro-Russian nationalist weekly *'Mysl Polska'* (which publishes, among others people like **Mateusz Piskorski**, leader of the **Zmiana [Change]** political party, who has been accused of spying for Russia). On her Twitter profile Wielomska has repeatedly published posts expressing dislike for Ukraine and Ukrainians, and using antisemitic tropes,

including the use of the term *'Ukropolin'* (the word means Poland in Hebrew; according to the conspiracy theory, Polin is Poland appropriated by Jews).

WARSAW. On 24 March, on the **wRealu24** channel of the **BanBye.com** platform (a far-right platform founded by **Marcin Rola**), **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** expressed xenophobic comments about Ukrainian students fleeing the war to Polish universities: *'Is the main point here to educate a Ukrainian elite for the Ukrainian state and to pay for it with Polish money? – and to what extent is it profitable for us? I'm just asking. I have the right to ask the question. [...] What will be the relationship of these graduates with Poland, apart from the fact that they will know that Krakow is a nice place for a party? [...] And what will we get out of it, apart from the fact that they will thank us kindly, Zelensky or whoever will be there, will pat us on the back? And the issue of Volhynia and the remembrance of the genocide against Poles [...] will remain unresolved [...] This, in my opinion, is a prerequisite for any agreement with Ukraine. I understand that most Poles don't think so, but I don't give a damn'*.

WARSAW. On 26 March, during a meeting at the Hybrydy club, a far-right commentator **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz**, devoted a scandalous speech to jokes and ironic comments about the aggression against Ukraine, which he compared to the coronavirus pandemic (in which he does not believe). He minimised and challenged the war crimes committed against the civilian population. He complained about the alleged censorship of views unfavourable to Ukraine. He said, among other things: *'Is the Ukrainian Pravda [truth, name of major news source – translator's note] really true [play on words – translator's note]? [...] You can see that the experts in shaping opinions of the masses got down to work. [...] We are forced to accept this truth and everyone who does not believe in this truth, is totally ostracised'*. In agreement with the views of **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** (a Member of Parliament representing **Konfederacja – Confederation** party), he also warned against the *'superpower Ukraine'* allegedly threatening Poland, linking it with the presence of Ukrainian refugees: *'If Ukraine were a superpower, we would be surrounded by superpowers. [...] If Ukraine wins, it will undoubtedly become a superpower and then Poland could be conquered by Ukraine [...], especially if we have a Ukrainian diaspora – maybe five, maybe six million, and this diaspora may not want to return there anymore, which is when the European Union can grant EU citizenship to this diaspora. Then these people, not being Polish citizens, would have active and passive voting rights in elections for local governments, so at first local self-governments, and then all the rest'*. In his speech, Michalkiewicz also included anti-American themes: *'President Biden used this war to grab the whole of Europe by the face'* and antisemitic ones: *'Jews do not expect us to settle claims in return for the supply of some goods, no, but in exchange for nothing. The United States have made a commitment to ensure that Poland meets these claims'*.

The meeting at the Hybrydy club (managed by the **Universitatis Varsoviensis Foundation** for the benefit of students and graduates of the University of Warsaw) was organised under the pretext of celebrating the 30th anniversary of the extreme-right bi-weekly magazine *'Najwyższy Czas!' ('High Time!')*. It was attended by politicians and commentators associated with **Konfederacja (Confederation, far-right party)**: Tomasz Sommer (editor-in-chief of *'Najwyższy Czas!'*), **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, **Slawomir Mentzen**, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** and **Grzegorz Braun**. During this event, the film *'Jedwabne. True story'* by **Wojciech Sumlinski** (a far-right activist, anti-vaxxer involved

in conspiracy theories on COVID-19 and Jewish lobbies) was also broadcast, in which the responsibility of Poles for the anti-Jewish crime in Jedwabne in 1941 is questioned.

STANISLAW DOLNY. On 27 March, during a holy mass retreat in the Church of St Stanislaus the Bishop and Martyr, Father **Jacek**, a Benedictine monk from Tyniec, spoke about refugees from Ukraine insultingly and spread false information about the causes of the war. According to the report published on the Facebook page of 'Pod Klasztorem i Zamkiem – Website of the Kalwaria and Lanckorona Community Resident', the priest warned during his sermon: *'Polish women should be careful with Ukrainian women who came to Poland, because they will soon seduce and take away their husbands'*. He also added: *'The Americans started the war in Ukraine, and now they want to blame it on the Russians'*. Villagers and Ukrainian refugees were present at the mass. Some people left the church in protest against the priest's words. In relation to his behaviour, the Benedictine Abbey in Tyniec stated: *'We strongly distance ourselves from such views. We thank the faithful who have chosen to pay attention to the abuses, and we assure you that we take the matter seriously. The situation requires deeper reflection, so today we can inform you that if the reports of the faithful are confirmed, the priest will be reprimanded [...]. Since the beginning of the war beyond the eastern border, the abbey has been supporting those who suffer from Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine: dozens of refugees from Ukraine have found shelter and material assistance in our monastery'*.

WARSAW. On 27 March, **Lukasz Warzecha** (a columnist for the right-wing weekly *'Do Rzeczy'*) published a video on his YouTube videoblog in which he presented a vision that Ukrainian children would pose a health risk in Polish schools. Warzecha, who also sympathises with the anti-vaccination movement, said: *'Refugees who come to Poland [...] have a problem with vaccinations [...] against genuinely dangerous diseases [...] and this problem, unfortunately, concerns children who immediately join Polish children in schools. We are talking about diseases such as whooping cough and polio. And here we do not hear the voices of the health authorities [...]. This threat is real'*. In the same broadcast, he supported the petition of the parents of the students of Primary School No. 16 in Lublin against making the gymnasium available to help refugees. He added: *'The state cannot help refugees at the expense of its own citizens'*. In addition, he publicly read a question he addressed to the Ministry of Health (in a letter of 7 March), repeating the insinuations: *'In connection with the messages that are reaching me, I would like to know if it is true that Ukrainian patients, including children, were given priority over Polish patients in medical care facilities?'*



Among the comments that appeared under this video, some were antisemitic: *'Objective and matter-of-fact as usual. It seems that Putin's aggression will also be paid for by the Polish-speaking-memopictorial community of Polin [in Hebrew this means Poland – translator's note]. I will not even mention the words of the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the servants of the*

Ukrainian nation. Anecdote at the end: President Zelenski called on Judean people from all over the world for help. Two came, from Warsz Aviv’.

WARSAW. On 28 March, columnist for the far-right *‘Do Rzeczy’* weekly **Lukasz Warzecha** posted unconfirmed information on Twitter about the alleged privileges afforded to children from Ukraine. He stated, *‘I have just received a second solid signal that the children from an orphanage who, if continuing their education, had the right to stay there after the age of 18, have been given two-weeks’ notice to leave the facility, to make room for children from Ukraine’* and *‘I won’t give further details until I receive some confirmation of this’*. This sensational and anti-Ukrainian entry by Warzecha has been met with many voices of condemnation. Among others, a journalist of Radio Tok FM Michal Janczura wrote, *‘This is the difference between a journalist and a «professional commentator».* *He has heard something, but he doesn’t know what exactly. He wants to make a fuss but has no evidence. [...] I would suggest you look at the regulations before talking more nonsense’.*

GDANSK. On 29 March, Radio Gdansk informed listeners that residents of one of the housing estates had received false notifications in their postboxes about the forced accommodation of refugees from Ukraine. The purported sender of the letter was the ‘Chelm’ Housing Cooperative, it had the signatures of the president and vice-president of the cooperative, as well as their stamps. The content of this notification was as follows: *‘We would like to inform you that we have been forced to undertake activities aimed at assisting refugees from Ukraine. In connection with the above, the management board of SM Chelm have decided to select at least one or more apartments in each staircase, in which it would be possible to settle Ukrainian citizens. Within a few days, an audit will be carried out in order to select the appropriate apartment’.* The same message had been published a few days earlier on the Facebook page of Grupa Gdansk Chelm. These activities were aimed at inciting prejudice against Ukrainians. In a statement, the cooperative responded that both the letter sent to the residents and the post on Facebook were forgeries. The prosecutor’s office was notified about the case.

PILKA. On 29 March, **Daniel Wachowiak**, parish priest at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Pilka (a village in the Czarnkow-Trzcianka parish), for years widely known for his online activity, posted a curious message on Twitter, in which he suggested that the help and solidarity shown to refugees from Ukraine pose a threat to Polish identity national. He wrote: *‘Not having a sense of your own identity is something I disagree with. This is manifested, for example, in the complex change of the native language [from NA Ukr to W Ukr – a recent change in Polish prepositions referring to Ukraine – translator’s note], mass displays of flags of another country, while omitting the national flag, lack of priority for Poles’.*

POZNAN. On 29 March, on the air of **Radio Poznan** (public broadcaster), **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** (MP from the nationalist, radical **Konfederacja – Confederation** party) denied Russian war crimes in Ukraine. He stated that *‘we know nothing about the war, because there is a monstrous censorship’* and added: *‘Mariupol is an obvious Ukrainian mystification, Poles do not see this’* (Mariupol is a city in eastern Ukraine, besieged, bombed and cut off from humanitarian aid by the Russians). The host of the programme, **Piotr Barelkowski** did not react to this statement. also praised Putin: *‘I defend*

European values and of the great leaders only His Excellency Vladimir Putin defends European values'. Again, Barelkowski did not comment on these words. During the broadcast, Korwin-Mikke expressed his appreciation for the system of power in Russia, because 'there is less democracy there than in Poland and therefore, Russia is richer than Ukraine'. Finally, he also expressed his support for the Tiananmen Square massacre in China: 'Today China is much richer than Poland because the majority was not listened to. When students protested, they were shot at. If these students had not been shot at, today China would have borrowed another tranche from the World Bank' (In 1989, Chinese students, supported by workers, demonstrated for several months, demanding the democratisation of public life, political reforms and an end to corruption. The protests were bloodily suppressed). Radio Poznan released a statement about the dismissal of Piotr Barelkowski, adding that 'he did not maintain his journalistic professionalism' during the interview.

WARSAW. On 29 March, a press conference held by **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party) the party MP **Grzegorz Braun** (a nationalist known for scandals), took place in the Sejm (lower chamber of

Polish Parliament), which concerned the alleged privileging of students from Ukraine at school at the expense of Polish students. **Marta Czech** (a candidate from Konfederacja's list in the 2019 parliamentary elections) criticised the consultations of the Minister of Education with the Union of Ukrainians in Poland and accused him of *'demanding that Ukrainian students be treated as equal to Polish, and even privileged'*. In



turn, **Piotr Heszen** presented the alleged *'postulates of the Ukrainian community'* aimed at *'introducing one's own Ukrainian life, also with the participation of non-governmental organisations, which would be admitted to the school premises, using Polish taxpayers' money. [...] Minister Czarnek [Przemyslaw Czarnek, Minister of Education], you are from a weak race'*.

WARSAW. On 31 March, on **wRealu24** (a far-right channel on YouTube), **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** once again criticised the support provided to refugees and envisioned a conspiratorial vision of the takeover of power by Ukrainians in Poland. He said desperately: *'I'm fed up with these politicians, why can't normal people rule so that Poles can rule in Poland, Poles with a Polish heart, and not with a Ukrainian heart or somebody else's! [...] Are Poles supposed to be servants? There is probably no such case in the history of the world that one nation is so massively favoured for the benefit of another nation, i.e. Poles for the benefit of Ukrainians, with privileges and so on. [...] Today, the Polish national interest is being trampled on by those who were supposed to get up from their knees, and are on their knees in front of the Ukrainians'*.

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WARSAW. On 1 April, in an interview for the Oko.press website, Dr. Joanna Talewicz, the leader of Fundacja w Stronę Dialogu (Towards Dialogue Foundation), reported on acts of discrimination against Roma refugees from Ukraine that have occurred in various localities in Poland. According

to her, the number of such incidents has increased since the outbreak of war. *'We are seeing a birth of systemic discrimination against Ukrainian Roma refugees'*, the activist said, and gave some examples:

- police threw Roma women out of a train station at night because *'there was a threat of robbery'* on their part,
 - Roma were refused clothes from donations because *'they take too much'*,
 - a flat owner threw out the Roma people after one day of hosting because *'Roma children are noisy'*, while another declared, *'I don't want Gypsies'*,
 - a volunteer who called the Mazovian Voivodeship official helpline to find a place in a refugee centre for a group of Ukrainian Roma was told in response, *'Gypsies have lice and we don't take them'*.
- In September 2022, Joanna Talewicz was awarded the annual Olga Kersten-Matwin prize *'for continuous assistance in integration, activation, education, psychological help, and legal matters to refugees of Roma origin from Ukraine'*.

WARSAW. On 1 April, on **wRealu24** (a far-right channel on YouTube), **Marcin Rola** delivered a tirade laded with conspiracy theories, in which he criticised helping Ukrainian refugees and showing solidarity with the victims of aggression. He stated: *'I was outraged because I understand helping humanely and so on, but there are limits to idiocy. If I enter the city of Malbork and see the flag of Ukraine in the City Hall, I'm asking: is this normal? At the Polish office, in a Polish city, in Poland, the flag of Ukraine! This is a scandal, this is not normal. [...] I am asking, where is the Polish flag? Maybe we should really let the strangers come here and introduce their order, maybe we must be eternal slaves. I feel like crying. In which direction is this going? [...] Will Poland even be able to exist?'*

WARSAW. On 1 April, a press conference was held in the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament), during which the leader of the **Ruch Narodowy** (far-right **National Movement**) **Robert Winnicki**, and **Michał Wawer** an MP from the **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party), presented a draft *'law on a moratorium on granting Polish citizenship'*. According to the draft, such a moratorium would be valid for ten years (sic!). Wawer referred to the issue of refugees from Ukraine: *'This is a policy of permanent changes to the social structure of Poland. [...] We call on the parliamentary majority to put a limit to this suicidal policy of changing the social structure in the Polish country'*. Winnicki, on the other hand, declared: *'After the Second World War we had a homogeneous state [...] and this is a clear value'*, and declared: *'We are definitely saying 'no' to changing the national structure of the Polish state'*.

On the same day, Winnicki appeared in a programme hosted by **Paweł Zdziarski** (columnist for the right-wing weekly *'Do Rzeczy'*) on the **wRealu24** YouTube channel, where he stated: *'we have already accepted over two million war refugees, there is such a risk, the threat of [...] rapid change of ethnic structure in Poland. [...] This cannot be a mass settlement plan, because the nation did not consent to it. [...] You have to remember that the Polish nation is the host in our country'*. Zdziarski complained about the *'ubiquity of the colours of the Ukrainian nation'* in Poland, and Winnicki echoed him: *'These things come to exaggeration and paranoia, and this will end badly. [...] An explosion of exaggerated Ukrainianophilia. [...] Everywhere there is this pushy propaganda that Poles should learn Ukrainian'*. The Konfederacja MP called for an alliance with Iran, because *'it*

would be a satisfaction for us to slap a state in Palestine that hates us in the face, that is, Israel' ('a state located in Palestine' is a phrase used by antisemites promoting the destruction of Israel).

LODZ. On 3 April, during the second division football match between Widzew Lodz and **GKS Tychy**, hooligan supporters of the visiting club chanted 'Jews!' at the Lodz team members. The term is considered to be particularly insulting in a football environment.

WARSAW. On 4 April, an anonymous sender sent out death threats and anti-Ukrainian slurs to several public figures, including Member of the European Parliament Radoslaw Sikorski (former Speaker of the Parliament and Minister of Foreign Affairs), Dr Maciej Lasek (MP Member of Civic Platform and former Chairman of the State Commission for Investigation of Aviation Accidents), Marek Rzasa (MP of Civic Platform), Patryk Jaki (Member of the European Parliament) and Katarzyna Lubnauer (MP of Modern party). The content of the message read: *'You will die, traitor, for Volhynia, I will murder you for what you did. [...] The number one priority should always be the Poles, not some sub-humans and cattle from across the eastern border. If you want Ukraine in Poland, f*cking go abroad and join the banderists [referring to members of the **Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists**, who took part in the Volhynia massacre of Poles as well as in Jewish pogroms in 1943-1944. The term 'banderists' is frequently used in Poland today as an ethnic slur against all Ukrainians – translator's note]. I will beat your multiculturalism out of your head with my baseball bat. [...] I will force you to dig a grave. You will die for Volhynia, you f*cking bastard. The sentence was passed in the name of the Polish Underground State'*. The case was passed to the public prosecutor's office.

LONDON. On 5 April, **Jakub Grygowski**, chairman of the London branch of the **KORWiN** (political party), a member of the National Council and the party's representative in the UK and Ireland, Tweeted comments in which he denied Russian war crimes committed during the war in Ukraine: *'Actor Zelensky did not want to leave his industry colleagues in the lurch. After becoming president, he got them the acting jobs of their lives with audiences numbering in the billions... he let them play corpses lying on the streets'*. On the same day, he expressed his wish for as many war victims as possible: *'I wish they would massacre each other and weaken each other'*. Grygowski also posted other entries with anti-Ukrainian content, for example: *'The fact is that Ukraine is an artificial state. The territories of western Ukraine – Lwow, Luck, Belz, Kamieniec Podolski, Zytomierz, Braclaw, Korsun, Czehryn, Podhorce, Mohylow, Raszkow - were, are and will always be Polish. You can only dream about Przemyśl'* (4 April), *'What kind of genius came up with the idea of opening the border to all Ukrainians, even to those without valid documents? I have not heard of a more stupid thing today'* (26 February). And on the day the war broke out, he expressed admiration for Putin's Russia: *'The past several decades went to waste, which Russia, unfortunately, used much better than us. The West has been preoccupied with nonsense, like urging people to become vegan, because of animals suffering, climate change and the development of socialism, while Russia was becoming stronger'*.

OSWIECIM. On 8 April, the International Roma Day, the Association of Roma in Poland issued a statement reporting on discrimination and stigmatisation of citizens of Roma origin: *'This happens mainly in the public sphere – on the streets, in public offices, in schools, in health care institutions,*

in courts, or in the public media, especially on the internet. Actions are being taken against our minority. Actions that violate basic human and civil rights, questioning civil rights'. The Association appealed to the authorities to respect the fundamental rights of the Roma minority laid down in the Constitution, and to treat 'Polish citizens of Roma origin equally as any other citizen'. The authors of the statement drew attention to the situation of Ukrainian refugees of Roma origin 'who signal various forms of discrimination after crossing the Polish border'.

On 19 April, the weekly *'Polityka'* magazine published an article giving examples of acts of discrimination against Roma refugees from Ukraine. The most common situation was the refusal to admit Roma to temporary places of residence. Joanna Kos-Krauze, a film director (e.g. *'Papusza'*, a film about a Roma poetess) and a screenwriter, who was involved in providing assistance, brought up an incident involving the owner of a private house in Wolomin (city located some 20 km from Warsaw). Initially, the man agreed to take in refugees, but when Kos-Krauze told him that they would be Roma, he broke off all contact with her. The Roma Association in Poland, on the other hand, reported that a volunteer called from one of the towns on the Polish-Belarusian border asking for a group of Roma refugees, women with children, to be taken away *'because they had organised a nomadic camp and a rumour spread around the area that Gypsies eat dogs'*. In doing so, he stressed that such a slander could be dangerous for them. Furthermore, at one railway station, a volunteer addressed representatives of Roma organisations with words, *'I am not a racist, but you guys should think about yourselves and understand why nobody wants to take you in'*.

GDANSK. On 9 April, during the top flight football match between **Lechia Gdansk** and Bruk-Bet Termalica Nieciecza, 'fans' of the hosting team once again displayed a banner in a so-called 'nest' (a place at a stadium where one person organises support for one of the teams) expressing support for **Janusz Walus**, a Polish immigrant sentenced to life imprisonment for a racist murder in the Republic of South Africa in 1993 [on parole since December 2022 – translator's note]. The flag bore an image of Walus and a slogan *'Nothing will break you, you are not alone!'*

SZCZECIN. On 9 April, **Malgorzata Jacyna-Witt, Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc (Law and Justice)** West Pomeranian Voivodeship Councillor, posted a contemptuous and discriminatory comment on Twitter about Jan Filip Libicki, a Senator from Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (Polish People's party) and a wheelchair user. In 2009 Libicki left Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc party. He described it on Twitter as one of *'the best decisions of my political life'*. Jacyna-Witt's official Twitter account responded, *'In your crippled, miserable life'*. The words were met with a lot of condemnation, to which the Councillor laconically declared that the post was a 'fake', without informing what exactly this would mean. The investigation into the offensive comment was initiated by the Public Prosecutor's Office in Szczecin-Central District. It concerned public insult of Libicki. The Senator is a person with a disability due to cerebral palsy.

WARSAW. On 9 April, on a tram number 33 at the Park Olszyna stop a passenger attacked two Ukrainian women – a pregnant woman accompanied by her nine-year-old son, and her mother. The man shouted that *'all Ukrainians should die'* and used violence. *'The aggressor [...] kicked one of the women and hit the other one in the face with his fist'*, Aleksandra Skrzyniarz, the spokeswoman for

the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw, reported. As a result of the strike, the pregnant woman fell and lost consciousness. Help was refused by the emergency medical dispatcher, who did not accept the call because... the caller spoke Ukrainian. Eventually, the injured woman was taken to hospital. The District Public Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw-Zoliborz opened an investigation *'into the use of violence against two Ukrainian citizens because of their nationality, and the use of unlawful threats of bodily injury to them and the boy'*. Police were looking for the attacker.

SREM. On 10 April, during the district division football match **Warta Srem – Ostrovia 1909 Ostrow Wielkopolski**, hooligan supporters of the visiting club hung a banner on the fence around a football pitch with a slogan: *'Free **Janusz Walus**'*. It was an expression of support for a racist killer (a Polish immigrant), who was serving a life sentence in South Africa for killing Chris Hani in 1993, an associate of Nelson Mandela.

WARSAW. On 10 April, in a programme on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24 Marcin Rola** denounced the presence of Ukrainian flags in Poland as a sign of solidarity with Ukraine. In doing so, he referred to xenophobic conspiracy theories. Rola said, *'With this lemming behaviour [this is the way he describes support shown to the refugees – ed.] it has probably gone too far, because on 11 November, our Independence Day, I do not see as many Polish flags as Ukrainian ones that I see in Poland now. If someone wants to fly a Ukrainian flag, it's not my business, but I will ask if this is normal. What is it supposed to symbolise? Solidarity, OK, but maybe submission? Serfdom? I do not like this at all because Poland is Poland'*.

WROCLAW. On 10 April, during the top division speedway match between **Sparta Wroclaw** and **Apator Torun**, hooligan supporters of the visiting club directed offensive insults at Sparta's rider, Russian-born Gleb Chugunov (who received Polish citizenship in 2020). In a media statement, Chugunov reported: *'All the time I heard nothing more than «Russian b*tch, get the f*ck out of here».* *From the beginning to the end of the match, before each of my races'*. When Chugunov approached the Apator 'fans' sector, they threw bottles at him. As he reported: *'One of them spit right into my face, and another one shouted that me and my whole family, including my mother, should be burned or something like that. I was simply shocked. I didn't even say anything to them because they immediately spit into my face and hurled such words at me'*. Because of his origins, Gleb Chugunov was also insulted on 16 April in the city of **GRUDZIADZ** by hooligan supporters of the local team **GKM** during a race against Sparta Wroclaw (a speedway top division). Chugunov made his debut for the Polish speedway national team in 2021. He has publicly condemned **Putin's** regime in Russia on many occasions, also before the outbreak of war in Ukraine.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 12 April, a 17-year-old student of a technical school attacked two girls coming from Ukraine. *'She was walking in the company of a friend through Solidarnosc square. She approached the Ukrainian girls, aged 15, who were there, and because of their nationality she insulted them. Then she hit one of the girls in the face and grabbed the other girl's hair and pushed her, causing the victim to fall to the ground. She then kicked the girl in the head and stomach with her knee. She was then dragged away by her friend and left the scene'*, Tomasz Ozimek, spokesman for the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Czestochowa reported. He also added, *'The following day,*

one of the victims noticed the perpetrator of the attack in the street and informed her aunt about it. The woman asked the schoolgirl why she had behaved inappropriately towards the girls the previous day. Instead of a response, the woman was insulted because of her nationality. Before the schoolgirl left, the victim managed to take a picture of her'. The assailant was arrested. She was charged with using violence against a female Ukrainian citizen and insulting her in public because of her nationality. The offences were considered to be of a hooligan nature.

TORUN. On 13 April, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association was informed about anti-Ukrainian and antisemitic stickers that appeared on city streets, mainly at bus stops. They bore the inscriptions: 'We are being dragged into the war, say no! We will not fight for the Jewish c*cks!'.



WARSAW. On 14 April, a sender signed as **Mikołaj Karas** sent bomb and death threat messages with anti-Ukrainian content to several public figures, including a Member of the European Parliament Radosław Sikorski (former Speaker of the Polish Parliament and Minister of Foreign Affairs), Piotr Adamowicz (Platforma Obywatelska – Civic Platform Member of Parliament, brother of the Mayor of Gdansk Paweł Adamowicz, murdered in 2019), Dr. Maciej Lasek (Civic Platform MP and former chairman of the State Commission on Aircraft Accidents Investigation), and Karolina Pawliczak (Nowa Lewica, Razem – New Left parliamentary club, Together Party). The email read, 'There is a bomb in your office. It will explode exactly at noon on Thursday. [...] I will f*cking kill you like the hero **Stefan W.** [the full name was given – ed.] did with that son of a b*tch Adamowicz. They help Ukrainians but persecute Poles day after day. YOU C*NTS, YOU WILL DIE FOR THIS'.

WARSAW. On 15 April, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube appeared a video interview with **Stanisław Michalkiewicz**, a columnist for the extreme-right bi-weekly magazine '**Najwyższy Czas!**' ('**High Time!**') and a former collaborator of **Radio Maryja** (a Catholic-nationalist radio station with a long record of antisemitic statements). During the broadcast, he disseminated an antisemitic conspiracy theory: '[...] Poland is ruled on a rotational basis by three parties: Russian, Prussian and American-Jewish. And [...] [the ruling party] is a branch of the American-Jewish party'. Moreover, in the further course of the conversation, Michalkiewicz questioned the Russian war crimes committed in Ukraine. He concluded: 'For example, this situation in Bucha: the Russians say that it was the Ukrainians who shot there those Ukrainians who collaborated with the Russians, and the Ukrainians say that it was the Russians who murdered them, and so on. How it was in reality, I don't know. [...] Since it was possible to send the International Red Cross commission to Katyn, why could it not be sent to Bucha? It's just that nobody wants it. And if nobody wants it, it means that they have something to hide'.

WALBRZYCH. On 16 April, the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association received photographs showing the area surrounding the Jewish cemetery on Moniuszki Street where piles of rubbish were stacked. Along the fence, residents... were throwing away tyres, electric wires, or furniture. The cemetery was established around 1902. It was registered as a historical monument in 1992.



WARSAW. On 16 April, the YouTube channel **Media Narodowe (National Media)** broadcast a conversation with the former leader of the **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)** – **Przemyslaw Holocher** about the book ‘*Meet the Jew*’ by **Teodor Jeske-Choinski**, which was reissued by the far-right publishing house **Magna Polonia**. This author was one of the leading proponents of antisemitic ideology in the first half of the 20th century. During the interview, Holocher replicated, with appreciation, the antisemitic claims and conspiracy theories contained in Jeske-Choinski’s publication. He stated: ‘*The Jews are able to accuse us Christians of great hatred towards them, of so-called antisemitism, while those Jews who refer to the Talmud and to this culture of the chosen ones are themselves stuck in great darkness, in great hatred and viciousness towards so-called strangers*’. Disregarding the almost grotesque overtones of Jeske-Choinski’s antisemitic prejudices in modern times, Holocher added, ‘*The Jews have always, every time they have grown in power, arranged conspiracies in an attempt to destroy their recent benefactors. We Poles have felt this too*’. Referring to August Hlond (1881-1948, a Polish cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church), he stated, ‘*The Jewish problem will exist as long as the Jews are the Jews. Meaning – until they reject the Talmudic culture, the culture of hatred towards other nations, the culture of hatred towards infidels and the superstition of the chosen ones, which pushes them to freeze in their Talmudic shell*’. Finally, Holocher stated, ‘*We must [...] stop tolerating the vapid attacks against us and the awful, nasty racism of some Jews, from the Talmudic circles which are against us, against Christians, and also against other people. [...] The movements of extreme antisemitism would stop if the Jews looked within themselves and began to change*’. The talk was moderated by **Brunon Rozycki**, who interjected that it is important to show ‘*what a powerful political influence [the Jews] have in foreign countries*’.

WARSAW. On 18 April, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, **Tadeusz Matuszyk** (in the 1980s an anti-communist oppositionist, a member of the Mazovia Region Management of NSZZ Solidarity, a representative of a nationalist faction) repeated antisemitic conspiracy theories. He stated: ‘*[The Jews] As under the Treaty of Versailles, the same later in Yalta and everywhere, they acted, act and will act against the interests of the nation, the Polish state*’. He also raised a constant antisemitic theme about the alleged ‘*ingratitude of the Jews*’, of the Holocaust survivors: ‘*We helped the Jews and please see what gratitude of the Jews is. There is no gratitude in the Talmud. We, the goyim, are like animals which are supposed to work for them*’. Moreover, in the next part of the broadcast Matuszczyk spoke contemptuously about LGBT people, elaborating on further conspiracy theories: ‘*The family is broken up by these various feminist movements, by these various fags, the whole shit has poured out of the tank. [...] Sodom was punished for all of this!*’

Sodom and Gomorrah! And it is happening right now. The Sodomites are out! After all, they have been silent for two thousand years! This is as a tool. After all, they don't really count'.

POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDER. On 19 April, the Oko.press website published an interview with two female volunteers, residents of Hajnowka, who assisted refugees in poor health in the local hospitals. One of them described the behaviour of border guards who *'forbid volunteers from seeing patients'* and assisting them in translating conversations with doctors. Later in the interview, the volunteers also described manifestations of hostility from the guards towards the refugees, *'It happened in late autumn that a pregnant woman left the hospital in flip-flops [she had no other footwear – ed.], and the guard who was walking her out said «Raus!»'* In the same press interview, one of the volunteers, summing up the humanitarian work carried out in Podlasie District for many months, bitterly stated, *'People are not very tolerant here, darker skin colour is rare, and those helping are considered to be supporters of illegal migration. However, nothing in the world is black and white and we need a generational change in Podlasie to open up to a different colour'.*

WARSAW. On 19 April, in a programme on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** the host **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** expressed support for a statement published on social media by **Jacek Miedlar** (a former Catholic priest and an extreme-right activist) in which he fanned the flames of hatred toward contemporary Ukrainians. Luksza said, *'[Miedlar] claims that Ukraine is a country which by way of its historical policy has turned our nation into a mop. And this, as I understand, is some kind of hatred. [...] I agree with that claim'.* Luksza also expressed approval for the words uttered by **Marcin Rola** who exaggerated the support extended to Ukrainian refugees and called out, *'For that reason we have to defend ourselves because they are taking away this country from us'.*

WARSAW. On 22 April, on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24**, in a programme hosted by **Pawel Zdziarski** the viewers calling the studio uttered anti-Ukrainian slurs and propagated conspiracy theories. A woman who introduced herself as **Irena** said, *'It cannot be that we form some kind of a union with a country that in reality hates us. The majority of people seem to have forgotten about it and all those anthems from the times of **Stepan Bandera** [Ukrainian nationalist from the pre-war and World War II era. His name is a frequent ethnic slur against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator's note] are sung everywhere and people applaud that'.* She then said of Ukrainians, *'They will surely never be Poles. It is possible that a «banderisation» of Poland will happen [anti-Ukrainian conspiracy theory]'.* Another viewer, identifying himself as **Grzegorz**, portrayed the refugees as a physical threat to those who offer them help, *'You don't know anything about those co-habitants, meaning Ukrainians. We don't know if they have mental disorders, we don't know if one day they won't raise a scythe against you...' [sic!].* A third viewer who called the studio, **Radoslaw**, warned about alleged political ambitions of the Ukrainian refugees, *'If on the borderlands they become a majority, in some region, they organise a plebiscite on joining Ukraine'.* He also appealed for Poland to close its borders to refugees, *'First of all, we must stop this influx and enough is enough, we have already accepted a lot, I mean really a lot of them'.*

GDANSK. On 23 April, during the top flight football match between **Lechia Gdansk** and Warta Poznan, the hooligans of the local club displayed a banner expressing support for **Janusz Walus** – a racist murderer. It depicted his image and the slogan *‘Nothing will break you, you are not alone’*. In 1993 in South Africa Walus, a Polish immigrant, shot Chris Hani, a black politician and activist fighting racial segregation. He was sentenced to life and has never expressed remorse [on parole since December 2022 – translator’s note]. The banner praising the killer is being regularly displayed by Lechia hooligans. ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association has addressed this issue on multiple occasions in the communications with the authorities of Gdansk (the city co-funds the club), but there has been no response.

ZBASZYN. On 23 April, local hooligans associated with **Lech Poznan** fans published on their Facebook profile **Fanatyczny Zbaszyn** (Fanatic Zbaszyn; Zbaszyn is a town in western Poland, in



Greater Poland Voivodeship) a photo of graffiti, depicting the Celtic cross (a racist symbol) in its centre. Graffiti was painted on one of the walls in Zbaszyn.

WARSAW. On 25 April, the YouTube channel **Media Narodowe (National Media)** carried a conversation with **Przemyslaw Holocher** (a boss of the **Magna Polonia** foundation and former leader of the **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny – National-Radical Camp**) and **Radoslaw Patlewicz** (author of books which duplicated messages about ritual murders allegedly perpetrated by the Jews). This conversation pertained to the reprint of the book *‘Meet the Jew’* by **Teodor Jeske-Choinski**, one of the leading ideologues of antisemitism in the first half of the 20th century. This item was printed by the Magna Polonia publishing house, belonging to Holocher’s foundation and the introduction, affirming the substance of the book, was written by Patlewicz. The conversation took place in response to an article published on that same day in the ‘Rzeczpospolita’ daily, which was written in cooperation with the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association and was critical of the re-edition of the antisemitic tract by Jeske-Choinski lacking a critical commentary, as well as describing in broader terms the xenophobic substance propagated by the Media Narodowe channel. In this programme, Holocher delivered a tirade in which he made scornful remarks about ‘NEVER AGAIN’ and supported with zeal the thoughts presented in the book *‘Meet the Jew’*. He stated that Jeske-Choinski, who called the Jews a *‘parasite tribe’*, *‘justifies, why he thinks that way and the strength of his arguments is simply overwhelming’*. Holocher also added: *‘It’s not antisemitism that is the problem of this book but all that is described in it, in other words the mad hatred that Talmudic Jews feel to the rest of the world, to goys [gentiles – translator’s note] and to believers in other religions’*. In his turn, Patlewicz accused the Jews, saying that antisemitic pogroms were... their own fault and he threatened acts of violence: *‘The Jews almost expressly demand a de facto liquidation of Christianity, so what attitude should Christians feel toward the Jews [...]? It can be said that the Jews are in some ways looking for trouble coming to them, that somebody could harm them’*. In a further part of this programme, the anchor **Jan Bodakowski** made false, derogatory statements

about the activity of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association (among other, he made scornful remarks about documentation of antisemitism in the 'Brown Book' carried out by the association). He was seconded by Holocher, who said that 'NEVER AGAIN' *'is such an extreme lefty structure which in any normal country should be counted among terrorist structures'*.

GDANSK. On 28 April, in a car park on Elzbietanska Street, for racist reasons two men attacked Lawrence Ugwu, the Director of the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdansk. *'They blocked my passage. I honked, then one started hitting the front door window. I thought he was going to break it, I wanted to drive away, but they continued blocking the road, after a while they started kicking the car. I got out to ask what was going on, then one of them pulled out a knife. It was a bayonet, with a blade about 40 centimetres long. He pointed it at me, shouting, «I'll kill you like a dog», «You monkey», «Savage»'*, the victim reported. One of the attackers also slashed a tyre of his car. Some witnesses to the incident started calling for help and the bandits escaped. Mr. Ugwu followed them, trying to take a picture that would be helpful to the police. He continued to be insulted by the men, *'Maybe he can f*cking eat a banana' or 'African sl*t'*. This is how he described further developments, *'On the way, a young man who had not seen what had happened before, stood up for me. «Why are you insulting this gentleman?» he asked. He was also attacked, from behind in the neck. It was a professional punch, like in MMA'*. Police were looking for the perpetrators of the assault. Larry Ugwu is from Nigeria, he has lived in Poland since 1982 and has been the Director of the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdansk since 2004.

WARSAW. On 28 April, an interview with the far-right commentator **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz** regarding the situation related to Ukrainian refugees, conducted by **Marcin Rola**, was broadcast on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24**. In the interview, Michalkiewicz expressed his appreciation of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, known for his pro-Putin bias, and of him not agreeing to *'delight the Ukrainian president'* (Orban has, among other things, blocked international relief efforts to assist the war-torn country). In this context, Michalkiewicz perpetuated an antisemitic conspiracy theory, while also criticising Polish support for Ukraine. He claimed that the reason for Polish support was that *'Poland is governed on a rotational basis by the three parties – the Russian, the Prussian, and the American-Jewish. Currently it's the American-Jewish party that governs us'*.

WARSAW. On 28 April, during the sitting of the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament), **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament **Grzegorz Braun** made a statement in which he ridiculed and condemned Poland's involvement in helping war-torn Ukraine. At the same time, he named minority groups which, according to this conspiracy theory, were to constitute danger to Poland. Braun said, *'Adam Slodowy advises: today I will show you how to change, redesign the face mask into a Ukrainian flag. [...] but we have seen more of these flags. Red, rainbow [a LGBT symbol], in the form of daffodils [symbol of Jewish insurgents fighting in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in 1943], and this is Poland and not a Banderland, Polin'*. [Adam Slodowy was a Polish popular inventor and DIY populariser, he passed away in 2019. 'Banderland' is referring to **Stepan Bandera**, a Ukrainian nationalist leader in the 20th century, and it would mean Poland allegedly to

be taken over by the Ukrainians. ‘Polin’ – the word means Poland in Hebrew, in this case it’d be a Jewish state that would emerge after the conquest of Poland – translator’s note].

CZESTOCHOWA. On 30 April, on Czeslaw Niemen promenade, the Vice-Chairman of the North District Council and the Head of the Committee for the Defence of Democracy in Czestochowa Wlodzimierz Gidziela was beaten up when he was addressing a man who had made anti-Ukrainian comments in a conversation with two friends. The injured described the course of the incident as follows: *‘In passing, I heard one of the men making very unflattering comments about Ukrainians. I then stood up for them [...]. After my words, I expected a discussion and an exchange of opinions, instead it came to a violent act. I was hit strongly twice with a left hook. I still feel the effects of this incident to this day’.* According to Mr. Gidziela, he called the police and informed the closest police patrol about the incident but the officers took no action. Nor were any assault proceedings initiated. This situation was commented on by the Prosecutor Tomasz Ozimek, the spokesman for the Regional Public Prosecutor’s Office in Czestochowa, as follows: *‘Normally, bodily harm is prosecuted at the request of the victim, but in this case, according to media reports, two people were actively involved, one of the men punched the victim, and the other encouraged him to do so. In such a case we are dealing with battery, which is prosecuted ex officio. [...] After the publication in «Gazeta Wyborcza» [liberal daily], the Regional Public Prosecutor ordered the Czestochowa North District Public Prosecutor’s Office to conduct ex officio proceedings in this case’.*

MAY 2022

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 1 May, during the second division football match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** and Zaglebie Sosnowiec, local ‘fans’ linked to the far-right group **Narodowe Podbeskidzie (National Podbeskidzie)** displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. It depicted an assailant, kicking a lying man, and a slogan *‘Good night left side’* (popular among the neo-fascist movements).



RZESZOW. On 1 May, during the second division football match between **Resovia Rzeszow** and Arka Gdynia, hooligan supporters of the hosting club displayed banners with a neo-Nazi content. One of them, with characteristic red and white graphics, resembled a logotype of the **Blood and Honour** organisation (the words *‘Blut und Ehre’* were a motto of the **Hitlerjugend**). It bore a quote from a song by **Honor** music band entitled *‘Fighting for What is Lost’*. The lyrics read: *‘When the streets again give a sign to the flames / To put an end to the disgrace that destroys the White World / From millions of hearts the same truth: to die or to live / Last days for traitors, shining blades, sweet taste of revenge. [...] / The way through battle to victory – an only path / Through the ruins of Yahweh’s temples, through the crackling sounds of burning scaffolds / When the fire shall destroy irrevocably armies of hostile race / On the purified land the White Pride House shall stand’.*

A second banner displayed by Resovia supporters bore the slogan *‘Blood and honour’*.

POLAND. On 2 May, **Mariusz Pudzianowski**, a celebrity and MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) fighter, made a post on Twitter in which he expressed his happiness about the outbreak of war against Ukraine. In response to one user's comment: *'I just lived to see it, the Ukrainians killed my great-grandfather [...] I lived to see compensated'*, Pudzianowski replied, *'karma came back to them!!! Volhynia – karma [Volhynia is a place of massacres of Poles in the years 1943-1945 by the **Ukrainian Insurgent Army** – translator's note]'*. In a manipulative manner, he thus used historical events to make a xenophobic comment on criminal actions carried out against Ukrainians since February.

WARSAW. On 2 May, the Polish National Flag Day, the presenter of the state-owned television channel **TVP Info Jaroslaw Jakimowicz**, known for his offensive statements about minorities, tore down a rainbow flag from one of the buildings on Belwederska Street, which was flying as a sign of solidarity with LGBT people. He called it a *'rag'* and *'shit'* and threw it into the bushes. He recorded the incident with his mobile phone and posted the video on his profile on Instagram (on 4 May his account was blocked due to repeated violations of rules).

Support for Jakimowicz's behaviour was expressed on 4 May on TVP Info. *'#Jedziemy'* programme hosted by **Michal Rachon** broadcast the video covering the incident. Jakimowicz himself was invited to the studio, where he argued for the rightness of what he had done. He was accompanied by the other two guests, **Jacek Wrona** and **Jacek Liziniewicz** from for the right-wing daily *'Gazeta Polska Codziennie'* (*'The Daily Polish Newspaper'*). Wrona praised Jakimowicz's public act of intolerance for LGBT people in the following words: *'Thanks, Jarek, for simply doing what was right'*.

SZCZECINEK. On 7 May, during the match of the fifth football division MKP Szczecinek – **Gwardia Koszalin**, hooligan supporters of the visiting team displayed a banner with a slogan used as the **SS** motto: *'Our honour is loyalty'* (original: *'Meine Ehre Heisst Treue'*).



WARSAW. On 7 May, in a show broadcast on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** the host **Jaroslaw Kornas** and his guest **Stanislaw Krajski** PhD disseminated false information and conspiracy theories regarding the refugees from Ukraine. Kornas voiced a racially motivated complaint that on the train from Przemysl there were *'seventy percent Black males or characterised as Indians let's say [sic!], thirty percent were white'*. In this way, Krajski questioned their right to seek refuge in Poland. *'We had a mass of people from Ukraine who most certainly could not have had Ukrainian citizenship, some of them even wore sandals [sic!]',* he said. Krajski also repeated fake news stories about alleged incidents in which the refugees of colour participated, *'At one point, the whole of Rzeszow was full of coloureds, and people were scared, especially since those coloureds were very aggressive'*. Kornas went on to suggest that refugees pose an epidemiological threat, *'As far as civilisation goes, Ukraine is much more backward than Poland and [...] there are some diseases which do not occur in Poland but they do occur there'*. During the conversation Krajski additionally promoted an antisemitic conspiracy theory according to which the war was provoked by Jews, so they could move their state to Ukraine, *'The problem is that [Ukrainians] were treated as displaced persons [...], as if Chabad-Lubavitch [the largest Hasidic group worldwide – ed.] were involved, who would like to obtain a vacant area to which they could relocate their faithfuls'*.

GRUDZIADZ. On 8 May, during the top division speedway match between **GKM Grudziadz** and Apator Torun, local hooligan supporters displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. It contained a slogan reading *'Good night left side'* (used by neo-fascist groups) and a graphic illustrating an attacker kicking a man lying on the ground.

WARSAW. On 9 May, the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** (due to hate speech this channel had been temporarily banned by YouTube and instead they broadcast on a separate YouTube channel belonging to **Marcin Rola**), the host **Piotr Szlachtowicz** and his guest Dr. **Lucyna Kulinska** (a long-time lecturer at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow. In 2019, Kulinska stood for election as a representative of **Konfederacja – Confederation** party), spread conspiracy theories about Ukrainian refugees' alleged ambitions to take over power in Poland. When Szlachtowicz asked, *'So, is Ukrpol already happening? [word game: 'Ukr' + 'Pol'; it refers to a conspiracy theory according to which 'Ukrpol' would be a state dominated by Ukrainians, formed after overtaking Poland – translator's note]'*, Kulinska started painting a vision, *'I was talking about the huge buildings which have been put up in Lublin and [...] that's where they are preparing the Ukrpol parliament for the future'*. According to Kulinska, Ukrainians *'are demanding a dozen counties in today's Poland, and international relations have changed to such an extent that they could start implementing this takeover in cities where they are close to constituting one third of the population, [...] and we know that in many places in Poland local authorities have already been taken over by them. Like, for example, by those descendants of the Ukrainians covered by Operation Vistula [mass eviction of Ukrainians from and resettlement in northern Poland by the post-WWII Polish Communist government – translator's note] currently living in Warmia and Mazury regions'*. Later in the show, Kulinska invoked motifs characteristic of Putinist propaganda by accusing Ukrainians, including children, of the pro-Nazi bias and called for their expulsion from Poland. She stated, *'Because what would I do about those parents, who have gone to the events [?] with the symbols of this Nazi Azov or with some other flags? I would deport these parents immediately and the children with them, or [send them] to an orphanage for re-education. If such small children are able to make a Nazi salute and to propagate this Nazism, then what do we need such people for? Send them away'*. Kulinska also said, *'Soon Azov [Ukrainian regiment] hubbies will come back, and no one will verify them here, trained murderers. Woe to Poles then'*.

WROCLAW. On the night of 9/10 May, on Opolska Street unknown perpetrators vandalised a mural prepared for the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (which is celebrated on 17 May). The creation of the graffiti was initiated by the Regional Representation of the European Commission in cooperation with, among others, Kultura Rownosci (Equality Culture Association). It was painted in the colours of the rainbow and contained the slogan *'#ClimateForEquality'*. The perpetrators of the damage had smeared the mural and placed signs of the Celtic cross (racist symbol) with the abbreviation *'GNLS'*, which stands for the neo-fascist slogan *'Good night left side'*, encouraging ideologically motivated aggression. The graffiti was restored with funds from an online campaign organised by Kultura Rownosci. Its unveiling took place on 13 May.

WARSAW. On 11 May, Robert Biedron, a Member of the European Parliament and the founder of Kampania Przeciw Homofobii (The Campaign Against Homophobia), announced on Twitter that he

had received death threats and a bomb alert at his parliamentary office. The sender, signed as **‘Piotrek Konieczny’**, made his motivation clear, condemning Biedron for his commitment to the refugees from Ukraine: *‘This is revenge for your treacherous support of UPA-ine!* [referring to the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (UPA)** which led an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in Volhynia between 1943-44, suggesting that Ukrainians generally support the actions of UPA – translator’s note]’. And further: *‘I am a close friend of Jacek Jaworek [wanted on suspicion of the brutal murder of three people in 2021 – ed.], so I know how to murder people, especially SUB-HUMANS LIKE YOU. [...] Detonation today. Your carbonised carcass will be scattered all over Poland’.*

GDANSK. On 14 May, during the top flight football match between **Lechia Gdansk** and Pogon Szczecin, some local ‘fans’ wore T-shirts bearing a symbol of a Celtic cross. This is an international sign meaning support for the so-called ‘ideology of white supremacy’.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 21 May, during the top flight football match between Rakow Czestochowa and **Lechia Gdansk**, ‘fans’ of the visiting club displayed a banner expressing support for **Janusz Walus**, a Polish immigrant serving a life sentence in South Africa for a racist murder [on parole since December 2022 – translator’s note]. In 1993, he assassinated Chris Hani, leader of the South African Communist Party.

WARSAW. On 21 May, after the top flight football match between **Legia Warszawa** and Cracovia Krakow, hooligan supporters of the hosting team attacked for racist reasons a dark-skinned British citizen and his Polish friend. The attackers shouted, *‘Go away! Why have you come here? After all, you guys know we’re racists’, ‘Why did you bring a N*gger? Maybe next time even Arabs will come!’* They also rushed at both men with their fists, the Polish citizen was pushed down the stairs. According to victims’ statements, Legia stewards who were informed of the assault did not provide them with any assistance. The men managed to reach the police officers in front of the stadium. They transported them to the police station to report the assault. The ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association, the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network, and the British Embassy were informed about the incident.

KRAKOW. On the night of 21/22 May, in a bar on Slawkowska Street, three Belarusian citizens (two young men and a woman) were attacked for xenophobic reasons. While they were talking to each other in Russian, an aggressive man suddenly approached them and said, *‘Let’s fight’.* When he was met with a refusal, he punched one of the Belarusians in the face. When the victim’s colleague tried to explain the situation, the attacker punched him in the back of his head. According to an eyewitness report sent to the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association, also the security guards of the bar behaved aggressively towards them. They used violence against the Belarusians and sprayed one of them with pepper spray. The police and ambulance were called. One of the Belarusians was taken to hospital in serious condition.

POLAND. On 23 May, on the Allegro website (the most popular shopping platform in Poland and the largest e-commerce platform of European origin), a user posted football fans' scarfs for sale with antisemitic content. They bore the slogan 'Anty Jude' ('Anti-Jew'), as well as a reference to the SS motto: 'Honour, fidelity' (original: 'Meine Ehre Heisst Treue' – 'My honour means loyalty').



According to a product description, it was offered to supporters of the 'WRWE coalition' (i.e., a group bringing together fans from four hooligan teams: Elana Torun, Widzew Lodz, Ruch Chorzow and Wisla Krakow), and were targeted at supporters of the LKS Lodz club. Antisemitic slurs are considered the most offensive among football hooligan supporters. In cooperation with the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, Allegro removed the scarfs from its platform.

WARSAW. On 24 May, **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**) broadcast a video on his YouTube channel in which he insulted the Ukrainian nation and propagated conspiracy theories about the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As the pretext for this tirade he used the appearance of the Polish President in the Ukrainian Parliament, who expressed solidarity with Ukraine and supported its pursuit of joining the European Union. Olszanski – appearing with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw as his background – commented on this speech in the following way, 'We are witnessing treason committed by the President of the Polish Republic and the Polish government against the Polish nation'. Next, in a manner characteristic of pro-Putin propaganda, he identified contemporary Ukraine with the crimes committed by the **Ukrainian Insurrection Army (UPA)** during World War II: 'An enemy, neo-Banderite state [**Stepan Bandera** was the henchman of UPA – translator's note] which Ukraine is, with a neo-Banderite President as its head [...]. The President of the Republic of Poland is carrying out the policy of the United States of America – he must unite the countries of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, part of Belarus, Poland, and Ukraine into an «Intermarium», Polukra, Ukropol [the conspiracy theory name for Poland seized by Ukraine], Polin [antisemitic conspiracy theory name, according to which 'Polin' would be a Jewish state, formed after overtaking Poland – ed.]'.

WARSAW. On 25 May, a Twitter post described a xenophobic incident involving **Piotr Biedka** – a 'patostreamer' known for promoting conspiracy theories relating to COVID-19, and the owner of the YouTube channel **CHWDP.tv**, which has over 120,000 subscribers [a 'patostream' is a live broadcast on a video streaming website which includes behaviours commonly considered to be socially deviant, such as alcohol abuse, domestic violence, or profanity; word formation in Polish: pathology + streaming – translator's note]. Biedka behaved aggressively towards two teenage girls

from Ukraine who were collecting money on Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street for war refugees, on behalf of one of the aid foundations. He criticised and ridiculed them, followed them with a turned-on camera and demanded to see their identity documents. When the volunteers tried to run away, he chased them. Looking for help, the girls called the head of the foundation providing aid to Ukraine. Biedka behaved aggressively towards the man, who was from Belarus, and made offensive comments. He compared him to a 'gangster' and threatened to use 'self-protection weapons' that he had 'in his bag'. One of the volunteers said 'goodbye' to him and Biedka shouted, 'But why goodbye? You are at my place and not the other way round. Why tell me that I have to do a «goodbye»? You do the goodbye! [...] I am on my land!'. Biedka uploaded a recording documenting his harassment of the Ukrainian volunteers on the internet.

WARSAW. On 26 May, a video documenting a xenophobic incident in one of the bakeries in Mlynów area appeared on social media. A customer hurled insults at the Ukrainian shop assistant. In the course of the conversation, a Polish woman began shouting aggressively, 'Go to your country because you are making such a mess in our country that it is beyond imagination! [...] F*cking c*nts, you f*cked in the *ss prostitute! Get out of my country! You don't f*cking give orders here! F*ck you, you old prostitute! You're a f*cking whore, go the f*ck back to your country!'. The aggressive customer also called the saleswoman a 'banderite' [referring to referring to **Stepan Bandera**, a leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN)**; in practice it is a frequent ethnic slur against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator's note]. The offended Ukrainian woman had been living in Warsaw for several years.

WARSAW. On 27 May, a right-wing commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** uploaded a recording on his YouTube channel in which he included a vision of anti-Jewish violence and 'the next Holocaust'. Referencing antisemitic conspiracy theories Ziemkiewicz said, 'New York-based Jewish gangsters are extorting money from the whole world, and I don't think this war in Ukraine has stopped their appetites or made them forget about the billions they promise to squeeze out of Poland for themselves. And not just out of the Polish people – they extort money from companies, various states. If we juxtapose it with the aggressive, shameless propaganda, based on what I call the Applebaum effect [Anne Applebaum, a prominent journalist, Polish citizen of Jewish-American heritage – ed.], it is the most despicable type of Jew who when they make a mistake in their calculations and you tell them that two plus two equals four and not five, they shout, «Antisemites are persecuting me!»' Ziemkiewicz also threatened Jews with violence: 'The behaviour of Jewish nationalists, the behaviour of Israeli authorities, a rogue state which is currently Putin's closest ally, the behaviour of gangster lawyers from New York, extorting money on the basis of some strange tribal claims, according to which a Jewish organisation from America, established specifically for this purpose, is entitled to inherit property from an heirless Jew from Poland, half a century after his death. With all that, they are earning themselves new pogroms or, God forbid, a new Holocaust'.

CHELM. On 28 May, during the match of the fourth division **Chelminka Chelm** – Siarka Tarnobrzeg, local hooligan supporters displayed a banner with a racist symbol of the Celtic cross. In addition, they hung a banner with antisemitic content on the fence around a football pitch. It bore a slogan: 'Our identity, our culture. No to Szmul Square'. It was an expression of opposition to the

city authorities' decision to commemorate Szmul Zygielbojm, a Jewish Bund party activist who tried to inform international public opinion about the Holocaust during World War II. He was a member of the National Council of the Polish government-in-exile in London. In May 1943, facing a defeat of



the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and international indifference of democratic countries to the fate of Jews – he committed suicide.

In the interwar period, Zygielbojm lived for several years in Chelm, where he was involved in charity and educational activities. By the decision of the city authorities in 2021, a square named after Zygielbojm had been planned to be built on Mickiewicza Street,

together with a sculpture and a mural commemorating him.

On the same day (28 May, 2022), after the end of the match between Chelmianka and Siarka, local hooligan supporters together with members of the far-right group **Autonomiczni Nacjonalisci (Autonomous Nationalists)** displayed a banner insulting the memory of Szmul Zygielbojm on the square at Mickiewicza Street. In addition, they organised a picket and distributed antisemitic leaflets to the city residents and put them up in the street. They contained a conspiracy theory that *'Chelm is becoming a training ground for pro-Israeli historical policy'*, as well as false accusations against the Bund as an 'anti-Polish' and 'anti-national' organisation. On 16 June, the **autonom.pl** website published some photos from this event, as well as an mocking comment regarding Zygielbojm's death: *'The only right thing he did was to commit suicide out of helplessness and because of the loss of faith in his leftist ideals raised in a Jewish organisation'*.

POLAND. On 28 May, the Ukrainian Ambassador to Poland Andrii Deshchytsia posted on his Twitter profile an invitation to take part in a *'march of gratitude for Poles'*, which was planned for 29 May in Warsaw. The ambassador also wrote, *'Friends make friends in war. Poles are our true friends who fight together with us every day!'*. In response to the post – among many expressions of sympathy and support for Ukrainians – there were also comments containing ethnic slurs, incitement to violence, and antisemitic conspiracy theories. Here are some selected examples of such statements:

- *'Cash for the weapons, cash for the refugees, and f*ck off with the Banderite marches* [*'Banderite'* is a term used to describe the members of the wartime **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists** led by **Stepan Bandera**, in practice a frequent ethnic slur against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator's note], *moron. Cash for stolen property and murdered Poles in Volhynia and Eastern Lesser Poland. Do you understand, you moron?'*

- *'I would be afraid that during such march a Ukrainian friend would stab me in the back with a rake or a pitchfork'*.

- *'We are not friends at all, it is the stupid pseudo-political class that thinks so, you are spoiling our labour market, the banderites did what Russians are doing today, you are far behind Europe in terms of culture, I bid you farewell as soon as possible, and let Andrzej Dudu [correct: Andrzej Duda, President of Poland – translator's note] pay for your social benefits'*.

- *'Idi ty nah*i, get the f*ck out of here with your slackers to your ruined land'*.

- *'I faintly hope you will lead this march straight to Ukraine! There is your hornet nest! Nobody thinking reasonably in Poland wants you. You are colonising Poland and the rest of Europe and the kosher mafia is preparing a new Israel on your lands!'*
- *'You need to be removed from Poland, Ukr* [slur against Ukrainians – translator's note]'; 'Pack your suitcases and f*ck off from Poland'; '#f*ckoff'; 'Get the f*ck out of Poland'; 'F*ck off with this friendship!!!'; 'Full streets of Ukr* [slur against Ukrainians – translator's note]... out!'*
- *'Just leave your pitchforks and axes at home, hotels, pensions, villas...'*
- *'How about confronting them and showing that they are not our friends and that it's time to f*ck off back to their own country'.*

STALOWA WOLA. On 28 May, during the fourth division football match **Stalowa Wola** – KSZO Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski, hooligan supporters of the local team displayed a huge banner bearing a so-called Totenkopf (a death's head) – symbol used during World War II by the **SS** in concentration camps (it presented a characteristic skull and crossbones).

WARSAW. Calls for the murder of the former Polish Ombudsman Prof. Adam Bodnar have appeared among reactions to a defamatory post by the right-wing commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**. On 30 May, the user **Dawid** wrote on Twitter, *'Scum like Bodnar should end up on the pavement with knives in their backs and the perpetrators – with state decorations on their chests', and 'This pest Bodnar should be liquidated on the pavement by a randomly encountered Stefanek #Letsgo'* (A reference to **Stefan W.** who assassinated Gdansk Mayor Pawel Adamowicz in 2019). Ziemkiewicz posted some slanderous comments about Adam Bodnar on his Twitter profile (as a comment on Bodnar's interview in *'Gazeta Wyborcza'*, a liberal daily). He also attacked again Rafal Pankowski, the co-founder of the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, using the following insults and false accusations: *'The mental condition of Targowica [a word often used in the Polish language as a synonym of treason; historically the name refers to a confederation established in 1791 in opposition to Poland's first Constitution – translator's note]. The former Ombudsman is unfortunately following the teachings of a certain Pankowski, one of the worst scoundrels of the Third Polish Republic, who has spent his whole life on and made a fortune by promulgating Putinist propaganda about Poland being a Nazi country all over the world'*. The posts calling for Bodnar's murder were removed from Twitter after being urgently reported by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association.

WARSAW. On 31 May, former Catholic priest and extreme-right activist **Jacek Miedlar** spoke on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** making comments with antisemitic and anti-Ukrainian content. He referred to historical facts, namely the Volhynia crimes of 1943-1945 [involving the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (UPA)** – translator's note], in a manipulative way intended to fuel the aversion to the refugees from Ukraine in Poland, and to diminish Russian crimes committed in the current war against Ukraine. He stated, *'Since the so-called genocide in Bucha is mentioned [...], the more the exhumation of Poles needs to be taken care of [referring presumably to the Polish graves in Volhynia – translator's note]'*. Moreover, he criticised the commemoration of the Holocaust as follows: *'[Polish] President Duda marching with the Jews around Auschwitz [...], but not a word is uttered about the genocide of Poles by the Ukrainians'*. Citing false facts, he accused Ukrainian refugees of taking advantage of the ongoing war and abusing the Polish welfare system:

‘They come from Lviv, from western Ukraine, where nothing is happening. They come here for a week or two and then they go back having received gifts, PESEL numbers [Polish acronym for ‘Universal Electronic System for Registration of the Population’, it is the national identification number in Poland – translator’s note] and social benefits’.

In addition, during the conversation with **Krzysztof Lech Luksza**, Miedlar repeated his antisemitic and anti-Ukrainian statements, originally made on 11 November 2017 in Wroclaw during a Polish Independence Day demonstration. He asserted that he had been *‘convicted for pointing out that «Gazeta Wyborcza» [a major liberal newspaper] is a propaganda tube of a Ukrainian Jew named Michnik aka «Szechter» [Adam Michnik is a Polish historian, essayist, former dissident, public intellectual, and the editor-in-chief of ‘Gazeta Wyborcza’; ‘Szechter’ was a reference to the antisemitic attacks on him by extreme right-wing groups – translator’s note], this pseudonym is commonly used by the public, and the fact that he is of Jewish-Ukrainian descent I had proved by reference to proper sources. [...] Furthermore, I have been convicted for saying: «two facts: the synagogues standing on our land and Jews being able to find the source of their Talmud-based hatred in those synagogues are the evidence that the tolerance of our nation is verging on lack of prudence», such was my opinion’.*

On 13 September 2021, the District Court in Wroclaw-Srodmiescie sentenced Miedlar to 12 months of restriction of freedom consisting of community work at 30 hours a month for the offence of insulting and inciting hatred on grounds of national differences against people of Jewish and Ukrainian nationality. On 26 May 2022, the Regional Court in Wroclaw upheld the judgment of the court of first instance.

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WARSAW. On 1 June, on Powstancow Slaskich Street a Ukrainian female resident of the city was attacked by an unidentified assailant. A Polish woman heard that the woman passing her was talking on the phone in Ukrainian and she hurled xenophobic insults at her and then beat her. She was shouting, *‘You are a Ukrainian prostitute, a f*cking sl*t!’* and *‘F*ck off to Ukraine!’* She hit her multiple times on the head, causing her to bleed from the ear. Two witnesses to the incident helped the victim and called the police. The attacker escaped. On 4 July, the Warsaw-Zoliborz District Public Prosecutor’s Office initiated proceedings relating to the crime of a public insult and violence on grounds of nationality. On 5 August, the Public Prosecutor’s Office filed charges against a resident of Warsaw, **Joanna W.** Spokeswoman for the Regional Public Prosecutor’s Office in Warsaw Aleksandra Skrzyniarz informed, *‘[The woman] is suspected of publicly insulting a Ukrainian citizen and using violence against her by beating her on the head with fists, slapping her and scratching her body, all for the reason of the victim’s nationality’.*

KRAKOW. At the beginning of June, which is an LGBT Pride Month (commemorating demonstrations for LGBT rights that took place in June 1969 in New York in response to the police violence at the Stonewall Inn gay club), at the corner of Zwirzyniecka and Tarlowska Streets, the Karakter publishing house placed a poster on a poster pillar expressing solidarity with sexual minorities. It read, *'I am happy with who I am. I don't need permission to love', 'I am proud to be gay. I am proud to be myself'*. The slogans were also translated into Ukrainian language and carried a symbol of a rainbow. The banner and the poster pillar were destroyed by 'unknown perpetrators'. As reported by the publisher, *'After just a few days, a large part of the poster was torn down. In the following days and weeks more pieces were being systematically torn off; scribbles (of course) also appeared. And on Monday [4 July], the pillar was taken down. Why? Maybe for the remains of the rainbow, maybe for the Ukrainian flag peeking out from the remains of the poster'*.



KATOWICE. On 9 June, at the Brynow-Centrum Przesiadkowe bus stop an unidentified man attacked a teenage boy from Ukraine. He threatened him and hurled racial slurs at him. When the boy boarded the no. 9 bus, the attacker followed him, continued to humiliate him, and shouted that the Ukrainian should *'go back to where he came from, that he was a freeloader supported by him, a Polish tax-payer'*. A female passenger stood up for the teenager. The man behaved aggressively, threatening her that if she *'wouldn't let go'*, he would rape or kill her. He also threatened to use a knife on her. Protecting the boy, the woman got off with him at the Ochojec Sadowa stop. The attacker followed them. He only left when the woman said she would call the police. She notified the Municipal Police Headquarters in Katowice about the attack. The officers detained a man who was charged with threatening and insulting based on nationality. In a press release about the incident the police stressed, *'thanks to the woman's reaction, the boy had escaped being physically harmed by the aggressor'*.

WARSAW. On 9 June, the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube published an interview with **Kacper Kita**, a commentator from the **Nowy Lad (New Order)** portal, concerning the Russian war against Ukraine and the situation of refugees. Kita made bizarre comments denying the Ukrainians staying in Poland the right to maintain their own national identity (such a right is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Poland). He stated: *'If someone wants to stay here permanently and settle down, they should be polonized. Before anyone gets citizenship, they should adopt Polish culture, Polish language, Polish identity, these are necessary for citizenship. [...] If someone has Polish citizenship, he should be a Pole'*. He repeated his words later on: *'You have to make it clear to all these people wanting to live here permanently that they should become polonized'*. In addition, Kita baldly supported an ideological postulate common to fascist circles: *'Poland is to be a country of Poles and we do not want any multi-culti here'*.

WARSAW. On 12 June, **Michal Murgrabia** presented a broadcast on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube with the participation of **Przemyslaw Holocher** (the former leader of the **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny – National Radical Camp** and the current head of the far-right **Magna Polonia** foundation), and **Marcin Kowalski** (head of the far-right **Mlodziej Wszepolska – All-Polish Youth** organisation). During the broadcast, all three made homophobic comments. Holocher repeatedly used abusive expressions when talking about LGBT people: *‘pervert communities, generally speaking sodomite circles’*. Kowalski lamented that the protests against the Equality Marches (LGBTQ+ Pride parades in Poland) had weakened: *‘[In Sanok city] when the first Equality March took place, the football fans were active. [...] But we rarely see this level of activity now, especially in those big cities where the parades have become commonplace. In Gniezno, there used to be quite a loud Equality March – loud due to the counterattack, in which the local football fans and of Lech Poznan FC actively participated. From our perspective, we have to do our thing and that’s it’*. ‘Our thing’ referred to the action on 13 April 2019, when the supporters of the Mlodziej Wszepolska and hooligans tried to block the participants of the Equality March from reaching the Market Square, threw bottles and eggs at them, shouted insults and displayed banners with slogans such as *‘Fags f*ck off’*. Thus, in his broadcast statement, Kowalski supported aggressive, often violent, protests against the Equality Marches. Holocher approved of his words: *‘You have to physically resist their [LGBT] attacks because they are aggressive. And we can’t afford that, and we can’t let ourselves be reduced to such a level that we just stand there with our arms folded’*. Michal Murgrabia remarks were in a similar tone: *‘These [rainbow] flags are also often hung on balconies. I wonder what these people think then, do they want to be perceived as: «Attention! Perverts live here, stay away from us» or an invitation: step in... get something’*.

WARSAW. On 13 June, singer **Ivan Komarenko**, known for denying the COVID-19 epidemic and promoting anti-vaccine conspiracy theories, expressed his admiration for **Vladimir Putin** and supporters of the invasion of Ukraine in an interview with the far-right **wRealu24** channel on YouTube, *‘At present, when I was in Russia, some eighty percent of the population united, came together – and they are behind the president, their president. Such a nation can create something amazing [...]. Why is patriotism so scary to leftist circles? Because it means strength and they are afraid of it’*.

WARSAW. On 14 June, former Catholic priest and extreme-right activist **Jacek Miedlar** spoke on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** and made antisemitic, anti-Ukrainian, and homophobic statements. He repeated his comments shared on 11 November 2017 during the Wroclaw Independence Day demonstration (for which on 26 May 2022 he was sentenced to 12 months’ restriction of liberty consisting of community work at 30 hours a month). In wRealu24 he argued, *‘All I had mentioned was that [...] Jews in synagogues get intoxicated with Talmudic hatred and that «Gazeta Wyborcza» [a major liberal newspaper – translator’s note] is a propaganda tube for the Jewish-Ukrainian Adam Michnik [a Polish historian, essayist, former dissident, public intellectual, and the editor-in-chief of ‘Gazeta Wyborcza’ – translator’s note]’*.

Miedlar also repeated the words he wrote in October 2018 to the participants of the Equality March (Pride) in Wroclaw. He reasserted his view that sexual minorities *‘are potential HIV carriers and*

potential paedophiles'. Referring to the ruling of the District Court in Wrocław-Srodmiescie which on 7 June 2022 sentenced him to 10 months of community service of 30 hours a month, he stated that *'porn performances take place'* during Equality Parades. The court found him guilty of proclaiming publicly, during the 2018 Equality March, that the people taking part in the march were *'pederasts, perverts, f*ggots and paedophiles'* who *'rape, grope, harm children'* and are *'potential HIV carriers'*. The court's decision referred also to Miedlar's column in which he had written that the participants of the Equality March were *'deviants, and highly likely paedophiles, and HIV-positives too'*, and that their march was a *'porn spectacle'*.

Moreover, during the broadcast, this extreme-right activist criticised in a curious and aggressive way the performance of children from the Ukrainian folk group, who sang the Ukrainian folk song *'Red Kalina'* on 7 June at the Shrine of Our Lady of Jasna Góra. Their performance was meant to express gratitude to Poles for their help to Ukrainians. Miedlar stated, *'it was as if a choir of Hitlerjugend or Wehrmacht sang one of Adolf Hitler's favourite songs in his honour'*.

WARSAW. On 15 June, Dr. **Lucyna Kulinska**, a long-term lecturer at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, who ran in the 2019 elections to the European Parliament and to the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament) on behalf of **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party), was a guest of a programme on the far-right **wRealu24** channel (broadcast on **Marcin Rola's** YouTube channel). She delivered there a xenophobic tirade full of conspiracy theories and false information concerning refugees from Ukraine. She alleged, *'The arrival of such a massive number of Ukrainians, many of whom have undergone chauvinistic education from kindergarten onwards, has led to increased anti-Polish activities of all these groups and lobby groups that had already been based in Poland. [...] Those newly arriving Ukrainians began to engage in anti-Polish activities without impunity, e.g. in denouncing people who spoke about genocide [referring to the massacre of Poles in Volhynia, today's Ukraine – translator's note]'*. She thus expressed her support for the far-right activists: **Katarzyna Sokolowska** from **Wolyn Pamietamy Foundation (Volhynia Remembered Foundation)** who in 2022 was charged with 14 offences of publicly insulting Ukrainians on the grounds of their nationality, as well as the former priest **Jacek Miedlar** (convicted in May 2022 for insults and incitement to hatred on the basis of national differences against people of Jewish and Ukrainian nationality). Kulinska further discussed the alleged hostile actions by Ukrainians in Poland, *'In recent years, in many institutions of our state: in the police, prosecutors, courts, probation offices, local authorities, and increasingly at universities there have been acts of anti-Polonism because Ukrainians occupy important positions there. [...] We are becoming second- or third-class citizens in our own country. We are harassed and persecuted for speaking the truth. [...] Ukrainians hate it and when they move here, they will take over our local authorities [...]. They will take over the land, this has already been going on for many years, especially in the border regions, and they will take over the forests, this too is already taking place'*. In her speech, Kulinska also included antisemitic threads, *'I don't know how they [Ukrainians] get along there with the Jewish diaspora as to who takes what. In fact, when it comes to Jewish enterprises, they have already settled well here. Mainly they have taken over the water, the waterworks'*. At the end of the conversation, she listed the alleged acts of violence and crimes that would be committed by Ukrainian refugees, *'[Ukrainians] will come here to rob, this is real, especially when it comes to the south-eastern*

voivodeships [...]. They will reclaim land ruthlessly. [...] But when they come to lack something, then they will remember that their enemies are both Russians and Poles’.

WARSAW. On 23 June, during the sitting of the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament), **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party) Member of Parliament **Grzegorz Braun** delivered a statement in which he disseminated antisemitic conspiracy theories. He said, *‘I am worried about the visit to Warsaw by Mr. David Harris, the head of something which is called the American Jewish Committee. For many years he has also been a champion of Jewish interests [...]’*. Further on, Braun referred to the so-called Act 447 [passed by US Congress in 2018] which is falsely presented by supporters of the far right as an order for Poland to pay the alleged ‘Jewish claims’. He ranted on, *‘I am reminding you again of the question of Act 447, in other words to this infamous law, a declaration of the American legislative body, which we fought against in every way we could. Of course, this means claims or fancied claims, in other words cessions of our estate, forced on us by ways pretending to be legal. [...] The Act 447, the war in Ukraine, forced Jewish claims against Poles, possibly transmitted to Ukraine. [...] My swallows passed on to me that in Washington, the Ambassador [Marek] Magierowski involved himself – obviously hiding from Polish public opinion, I don’t know whether it’s known to the Polish government – in negotiations of payments of imaginary Jewish claims, having been blackmailed for years, and that these payments have been somehow decided in the range of several billion’*. Ending off his statement, Braun connected these antisemitic visions with the war in Ukraine, *‘Is the Polish government negotiating with Jews about payments in cash or in kind, in the form of public transfers or hidden ones, under the guise of helping Ukraine – and how big are the sums? Is this what Mr. Harris is talking about in Warsaw, about how to squeeze out money from Poles, and how much from Ukrainians? Is this what’s in the works?’*

WARSAW. On 23 June, on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel a broadcast was released, the very title of which propagated the conspiracy theory: ‘Is this the END of Israel’s lies? «They want to have their POLIN here»’. This was a quote from a comment by a far-right activist, **Wojciech Sumlinski**, who while visiting the studio, once again conceived a vision about the alleged pursuit of Jews to create the Polin state in the place of Poland after they seize it. Moreover, Sumlinski, co-author of the books from the series **‘Return to Jedwabne’**, again spoke about the 1941 pogrom in a distorted manner and derogatory to the memory of the victims: *‘On July 10 [1941], the Germans committed a crime against the Jews, which the Jews attribute to Poles in exchange for dirty money’*. In this context, he also uttered insulting words about the former President of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski: *‘A man of Jewish origin, the President of Poland, apologises to other Jews for a German crime on behalf of Poles’*. Sumlinski’s accusations combined traditional antisemitic threads with cinematography: *‘The Jews have the whole power, [...] they have influence, they have Hollywood, which creates the Jews and destroys Poles’*.

POLAND. On 24 June and in the following days, many racist comments appeared on the internet concerning Jeremy Sochan, a dark-skinned basketball player of Polish origin, who was selected in the NBA draft (with number 9) and joined San Antonio Spurs club (‘a draft’ is a process of recruiting new players for a division). Despite the fact that the 19-year-old is a representative of Poland in the national team (he also has American citizenship), speaks Polish and emphasises his strong ties to

the country, authors of these comments denied him a right to claim a Polish identity. Here are some selected (non-vulgar) posts published on social media: *'And he's supposedly Polish?'*, *'And those Slavic facial features'*, *'So Poles look like this now...'*, *'The one on the left is more alike'* (in the photo, the player was standing next to a white NBA commissioner Adam Silver). In an interview, Sochan described his sense of self-identity this way: *'I'm a bit American, a bit English, a bit Polish. I could give many examples of how much this multiculturalism enriched my life. Playing against players from different countries, with different technical or physical abilities is a great learning experience'*.

Jeremy Sochan's promotion to the NBA was also the subject of a broadcast on 24 June on the PolskiKosz TV You Tube channel. The programme was hosted by Kamil Chanas and two former Polish NBA players, **Marcin Gortat** and Cezary Trybanski, were his guests. Gortat made a peculiar, prejudice-tinged comment about Sochan, *'When I signed the contract, I was wearing a gypsy shirt. [...] We weren't wearing gold and diamonds like Jeremy is now. [...] It is clear that he is soaked a little bit in this American culture, college culture, where it should also be emphasised that his dad was Afro-American, and we understand a little bit of that culture. Me and Cezary, we are Polish, we're very, very white, and we're from Poland'*.

WARSAW. On 25 June, a march in honour of **Roman Dmowski** (1864-1939), the founder of modern Polish antisemitism, took place in the capital city. It was organised by far-right propagandists **Wojciech Olszanski** and **Marcin Osadowski** (at that time legal proceedings were in progress against both of them for, among other things, sending death threats to the Members of Polish Parliament) and **Rodacy Kamraci (Compatriot Companionship)** group. Participants of this gathering chanted antisemitic and anti-Ukrainian slogans.

- Wojciech Olszanski spoke publicly several times and shouted with the crowd, *'It is Poland here, not Polin'* [the word means Poland in Hebrew; antisemitic conspiracy theory, according to which 'Polin' would be a Jewish state formed after overtaking Poland – translator's note] and *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'* (a slogan calling for ideologically motivated violence), to which the crowd replied *'Death!'* At the Charles de Gaulle roundabout, Olszanski gave an antisemitic speech, demanding the removal of the palm tree from the Jerusalem Avenue (this installation commemorates Jewish residents of Warsaw): *'There will be no trace left of this palm tree! We will build a great Slavic house here. This is the tree of our national shame. It should not be here! [...] Down with the palm trees, this is a symbol of domination over us'*. During the march, an exhortation was also heard through a megaphone, *'We don't want these palm trees here, a symbol making Jews and Blacks feel at home! [...] This is Poland, not Israel!'*

- At the Castle Square, **Grzegorz Braun** from **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party spoke and expressed publicly his thanks to the two 'patostreamers' [Polish word referring to people who are involved in video live streams containing socially pathological content – translator's note] Wojciech Olszanski and Marcin Osadowski (they had been released from pre-trial custody shortly before the march) for their *'very strong voice for Poland. And I repeat – death to the enemies of the fatherland'*. Braun went on to condemn the President of Poland *'who declares an interest in the project of «Republic of Friends of Polin»*. *Some others want the Ukro-Pol'* ['Ukro' – stands for Ukraine, 'Pol' for Poland, and refers to a creation of a new nation – translator's note]. Thus, in a single speech, he

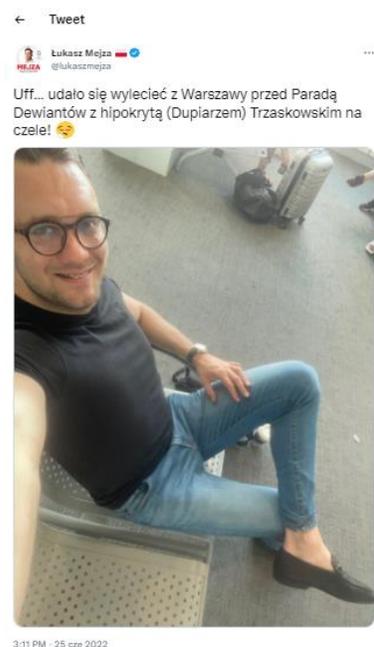
included antisemitic content and promoted a conspiracy theory that Poland would be taken over by the Ukrainians.

- A speech was also given by **Piotr Rybak** (convicted of public incitement to national hatred) who stated, *'There is no agreement of the Poles in our homeland to let a foreign nation tell us what to do!'* (this referred to Jews). And further he said, *'The communists made a deal with the commie Jews [aka Judeo-Bolshevists, antisemitic stereotype of Jews as communist traitors – translator's note] and they betrayed us all'*. Marcin Osadowski also publicly attacked the Jewish emigrants forced to leave Poland as a result of the antisemitic campaign in March 1968. He raved on about the conspiracy, *'They can say with impunity that Poles murdered the Jews. [...] History has outlined a completely different framework, that the history created by those who took with them more than they could in '68 created a completely different picture from what we are being taught today'*. Later on, **Michał** from the **Bydgoskie Kamracto Rodaków (Bydgoszcz Compatriot Companionship)** addressed the gathering, *'A president who says that it's Polin here, is he really pursuing the Polish national interest?'*

- During the gathering which lasted several hours its participants also chanted, *'This is Poland, not Ukro-Pol'*, *'They made us Ukro-Polin'* and *'There is no consent for Ukro-Polin'* (a reference to the conspiracy theory according to which Jews and Ukrainians seek to take over Poland). They also displayed flags with the Slavic swastika symbol.

WARSAW. On 25 June, the day of the Equality Parade (Pride) organised as a gesture of solidarity with LGBT people, the Member of Parliament **Lukasz Mejza** (independent, supporting **Prawo i Sprawiedliwość – Law and Justice** party during parliamentary voting) tweeted a contemptuous comment about the event. Mejza wrote, *'Phew... I managed to fly out of Warsaw before the Parade of Deviants'*.

On 24 November 2021, Wirtualna Polska website published a report on **Vinci NeoClinic**, a company co-owned by Mejza. It described its activities of *'persuading seriously ill patients and their families to buy therapy offered by a clinic in North America'*. This therapy is considered medically unproven and dangerous by doctors in Poland and around the world. As a result of related press publications, Lewica (Left party) members Anita Kucharska-Dziedzic and Maciej Kopiec submitted a notification to the Public Prosecutor's Office on the suspicion of Mejza committing an offence under Article 286 § 1 of the Polish Penal Code.



WARSAW. On 26 June, the Warsaw 5th District Police Headquarters informed that in a grocery store in Bielany area a customer threatened the security staff and insulted them based on their nationality. The police officers who were in the store at the time intervened in the incident and the aggressive man was arrested. He was charged with insulting security guards on national grounds, as well as theft with assault. The proceedings were supervised by Warsaw-Zoliborz District Public Prosecutor's Office.

JULY 2022

WARSAW. On 1 July, in the city centre a group of Belarusians were attacked for xenophobic reasons by unidentified assailants. Among the injured was Anton Zhivanov from the rock band The Toobes, a participant of a talent show broadcast on TV Polsat, who had been living in Poland for almost ten years. He described what happened, *‘They [the attackers] sat down next to us and started asking questions: «Why being of military age you are not in the army, why aren’t you defending your country?» They thought we were Ukrainians. I said we were from Belarus. They disliked that even more. They said that we were the aggressors and such people were not needed in Poland’.* The Belarusians went on to explain to the men that they had left their country because of persecution, but they then met with violence. One of the attackers hit Zhivanov with a fist with a metal element resembling a knuckleduster. The Belarusian musician lost consciousness. The police were informed about the incident.

POZNAN. On 2 July, ‘fans’ of **Lech Poznan** football club attempted to disrupt the Equality March (supporting LGBT rights). A group of more than a dozen aggressors chanted offensive slogans at the participants of this peaceful demonstration, including: *‘Faggots’* and *‘No faggotry’*. The football fans also displayed a flag with this slogan and with some pornographic graphics. They also



brought a banner reading *‘White and red Wilda without faggotry’* (Wilda is a southern part of the city of Poznan). What’s more, they tried to burn a rainbow flag (LGBT symbol), and when that failed, they tore it down. The police formed a cordon to separate the pseudo-fans from the Equality March participants.

SLUPSK. On 5 July, on Szare Szeregi Street ‘unknown perpetrators’ painted the following slogans on a pedestrian crossing: *‘Stop LGBT’*, *‘F*ck LGBT’* and *‘GNLS’*. This last acronym stands for the neo-fascist slogan *‘Good night left side’*, calling for violence on so-called ideological grounds. The offensive inscriptions covered the rainbow-coloured stripes that someone had painted on the road on the night of 3/4 July to express solidarity with LGBT people. A resident of the city described the homophobic devastation, *‘I was passing by this place around 8 p.m. and I witnessed a group of young people, maybe 6-7 of them, spraying the crossing with black sprays. I took pictures of them. Further on, I met a police patrol, to whom I told what was happening at the crossing. They asked me to copy the photos onto a CD and bring it to the police station. I didn’t see the police trying to stop young people writing hateful slogans’.*

OPOLE. On 7 July, Rafal Bartek, the Chairman of the Association of German Social-Cultural Societies in Poland, informed about the anonymous death threats received by him as well as by organisations of the German minority in Poland. *‘They included an unequivocal threat in German and Polish, with extremely drastic photos of gallows. Needless to say there were no signatures under these threats.’*

Unfortunately, this shows that the current socio-political situation has a significant impact on the perception of the community of German minority in Poland', he said. According to local media, the sender of the message addressed to the German minority organisation also wrote that 'Poland is not [their] place'. The threats had been sent to the Social-Cultural Society of Germans in Opole Silesia, the Association of German Social-Cultural Societies in Poland, and the Union of Youth of the German Minority in Poland. The spokeswoman for the first of them, Joanna Hassa, announced that threats had been sent in connection with the general meeting of their delegates, held on 4 June, who published an appeal against discrimination of the German minority in Poland. In it, they condemned the regulation of the Ministry of Education and Science, 'as a result of which from 1 September 2022 Polish citizens of German nationality will be openly and directly discriminated against. The Ministry regulation limits the number of German language lessons only for children of the German minority from 3 to 1 per week, and will make this language practically disappear from schools, and the transmission of German linguistic and cultural identity will become almost impossible'.

GORZOW WIELKOPOLSKI. On 8 July, during the top division speedway match between Stal Gorzow and **GKM Grudziadz**, visiting hooligan supporters displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. It featured a neo-fascist slogan '*Good night left side*' and a characteristic graphic illustrating a man kicking another man lying on the ground.

WARSAW. On 8 July, two days before the anniversary of the murder of the Jews in Jedwabne, an interview with **Robert Bakiewicz**, leader of the **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci (March of Independence Association)** and editor-in-chief of the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel, was published on YouTube. During the conversation, Bakiewicz questioned the Poles' responsibility for this crime, referring to antisemitic conspiracy theories. He stated: '*It is clear that it was simply a German murder, and the Jews, collaborating with submissive Poles in our country, use this element as an element of propaganda. This cannot be accepted*'. He encouraged viewers: '*Lies about Jedwabne have to be straightened out. I am fully convinced that on the basis of the evidence that we already have today, it can be clearly stated that the murder was not committed by the Poles. [...] What the Jewish community or Israel says about this issue confirms our belief that it is simply acting for the benefit of currently building the myth of this criminal behaviour of Poles, but also developing this entire religion of the Holocaust*'. He also accused the Jews of political manipulation of the memory of the Holocaust: '*Today, the Jews are simply in one line with Germany, this historical policy of Germany, Israel and Jewish communities around the world is consistent*' (which, according to Bakiewicz, would lead to accusing Poles of murdering the Jews). The editor-in-chief of the Media Narodowe channel reiterated that the issue of the Jedwabne pogrom was '*cynically used [...] by the Jews as a lie*'. He also added: '*Jedwabne is only a certain symbol that is used by Israel or certain Jewish groups to beat Poles on the heads with this historical lie. But here it is necessary to simply reject this lie*'. In addition, during the broadcast, fragments of materials recorded by Bakiewicz during the celebration of the anniversary of the crime in Jedwabne were broadcast (the year was not specified). With his '*questions about the truth*' (thus undermining what actually happened during the pogrom), he disturbed the participants attending the commemoration event. When recalling this situation in the Warsaw studio, he made a dehumanising comment on

people who did not agree with the content he propagated: *'This reluctance, even animal-like reluctance, it must be said that it was very visible'*.

WARSAW. On 8 July, two days before the anniversary of the anti-Jewish pogrom in Jedwabne, live interviews were broadcast on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, during which the historical truth about the murder was denied. One of the interlocutors was a far-right commentator **Wojciech Sumlinski**, who stated that *'this is a German crime'* and, referring to his film *'Return to Jedwabne'* (the promotion literature about this 'achievement' carried the motto: *'Jewish partition of Poland'*), added that *'the Jews call it a Polish crime in exchange for dirty money, power and the vision of Polin. This tribute is to be so great that we can never pay it back. As Jerzy Kwasniewski says in our film [head of the Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture – a far-right organisation – translator's note] this is about some territorial transformations in the future'*. Thus, Sumlinski once again repeated the conspiracy theory, according to which the Jews strive to take over the Polish state and create in its place the Polin state (the word from Hebrew means 'Poland'). In the further course of the conversation, he presented a falsified vision of past events, according to which the *'terrible Soviet-Jewish occupation'* was to be fortunately stopped – thanks to the Nazis: *'If it had not been for the Germans on 22 June 1941, as the mayor of Jedwabne says [...], we would not have been here today, we wouldn't have been talking'*. The same broadcast also featured an interview with prof. **Jerzy Robert Nowak**, author of books with antisemitic content. When asked by **Michał Jelonek** about who was responsible for the murder in Jedwabne, Nowak – contrary to what actually happened – said: *'Of course, units of the German SS are responsible'*, thus absolving the Polish perpetrators of responsibility for the pogrom.

WARSAW. On 10 July, on the anniversary of the pogrom in Jedwabne, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube appeared a broadcast promoting conspiracy theories entitled 'Why Russia attacked under the sign of Z'? **Jan Bodakowski's** guest was **Radosław Patlewicz**, author of the book *'Mord rytualny w Rzeszowie? Sledztwo historyczne' ('Ritual murder in Rzeszow? A historical investigation'*; the **3dom** publishing house announced its content as follows: *'In this case, the possibility of committing a ritual murder cannot be rejected just because such an assumption does not correspond to the spreading slogans of political correctness'*). Bodakowski started the conversation with a bizarre observation about the symbol of the Russian invasion, the letter Z, noting that this letter *'does not appear in the Russian alphabet [...] but it is very similar to a letter that in Hebrew and in Kabbalah means war'*. He developed the conspiratorial insinuations about the alleged ties between the Jews and the aggression against Ukraine as follows: *'And it would also suit the theory that the Kabbalistic symbol of the war was visible on Russian tanks, the more so knowing Vladimir Putin's very close relations with Jewish communities or his ties to Chabad-Lubawicz [the largest Hasidic group in the world – translator's note]'*.

Later in the broadcast, both interviewees spoke about refugees arriving in Poland, while referring to xenophobia and racist criteria. Patlewicz differentiated the *'invaders arriving from Belarus, coming by air from Iraq, African countries and so on and so on'* and Ukrainian refugees. Bodakowski echoed his words, emphasising that from Ukraine come *'young women'*, who *'[...] are not so culturally alien to us and are also not alien to us in racial terms'*. He further stated: *'This is not the Islamic immigration that is reaching Western Europe, which is made up of young men of draft age,*

often with a criminal or terrorist past, who do not want to work, want to parasitize and bring their culture here’.

JEDWABNE. On 11 July, in connection with the anniversary of the anti-Jewish pogrom of 1941, the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** broadcast live an assembly with the participation of **Wojciech Sumlinski** who in his books and movie *‘Return to Jedwabne’* denied the responsibility of Poles for the crime. He repeated those claims also in the place where the pogrom took place, next to the Jedwabne monument. In contradiction to the historical truth he stated that *‘[it was] a German crime attributed to Poles for dirty money and power’*, and that *‘Jews promoted the alleged Polish Nazism throughout the world’*. In his speech, he perpetuated many antisemitic conspiracy theories, including one with the *‘multibillion dollar exaction’* allegedly demanded by Jews from Poland. Referring to the Head of **Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture** (a far-right organisation), **Jerzy Kwasniewski**, Sumlinski had a cloudy vision related to these alleged claims: *‘Our international situation must be so bad that we treat this [Jewish] exaction, this Polin [...] as a lesser evil’* [Polin means Poland in Hebrew, in this case it’d be a Jewish state that would emerge after the conquest of Poland – translator’s note]. Sumlinski referred to this concept several times, *‘The vision of Polin [...] is very real. Unfortunately, it’s more real than many people think’*. He claimed that in the case of Jedwabne pogrom, Jews *‘lie, it’s about dirty money, about power, and about Polin’*. Recalling his own movie, he stated that he showed in it *‘how the Jewish people divided our country: American, Polish, and Israeli, how they made transcripts of these divisions because they couldn’t agree what would go to whom’*. Additionally, he mentioned the conspiracy theories related to the COVID-19 pandemic, he argued that it was *‘Jewish globalists’* who announced its return. In addition, one of the Sumlinski’s henchmen disputed an older man’s participation in the celebrations commemorating the crime. He showed photos of demolished tenement houses and turned to him, *‘[Hitler] left Poland in such state. It’s because of you [Jews], because most of you lived here’*.

WARSAW. On 12 July, in an interview broadcast on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** Dr. **Mirosława Modelska-Creech** (a long-time academic lecturer; she was also a far-right **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) candidate in the parliamentary elections in 2019) denied the truth about the crime in Jedwabne [massacre of Jewish inhabitants of Jedwabne perpetrated by the Polish population of the town in presence of German occupying forces in 1941 – translator’s note] and spread extremely antisemitic stereotypes. During the interview the host **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** said, *‘Poles are accused of crimes against Jews’*, to which Modelska-Creech answered, *‘It’s absolute nonsense’*. Insulting the victims and disregarding historical knowledge she claimed, *‘Germans burned these Jews who had collaborated with NKVD [Soviet political police – translation’s note]’*.

BIELSK PODLASKI. On 14 July, the police reported that a couple of residents of the city attacked two men from Moldova and Ukraine who were sitting on a park bench. The perpetrators kicked them in the head and body. A 16-year-old girl accompanying the attackers tore up the Moldovan’s passport. The incident was recorded by surveillance cameras. Both attackers and the girl were arrested. In the apartment of one of them, the police found over 700 grams of illicit drugs. The men were charged with robbery, and one was charged with possession of a significant amount of drugs.

The court decided that they were to be temporarily arrested for two months. The case of the minor who destroyed the passport was transferred to a family court.

SKOPJE (MACEDONIA). On 14 July, during a football qualifying match in the Europa Conference League, Akademija Pandev – **Lechia Gdansk**, Polish hooligan fans hung a banner on a fence around the football pitch in support of **Janusz Walus**, a Polish immigrant sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa for a racist murder [on parole since December 2022 – translator’s note]. The flag bore his image, as well as the slogan *‘Nothing will break you, you are not alone!’* In 1993 Walus murdered Chris Hani, a South African anti-apartheid leader.

GRUDZIADZ. On 15 July, during the top division speedway match between **GKM Grudziadz** and Motor Lublin, hooligan supporters of the hosting club once again displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. It featured a neo-fascist slogan *‘Good night left side’* and a characteristic graphic illustrating an attacker kicking a man lying on the ground.

WARSAW. On 15 July, in an interview broadcast on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** the editor-in-chief of the far-right magazine *‘Najwyższy Czas!’* (*‘High Time!’*) **Tomasz Sommer** made false statements about the perpetrators of the Jedwabne pogrom [massacre of Jewish inhabitants of Jedwabne perpetrated by the Polish population of the town in presence of German occupying forces in 1941 – translator’s note]. In contrast to findings of historians and prosecutors he claimed, *‘The crime in Jedwabne was committed by the Germans with some help from the locals, who were forced to do so’*. He also spread a conspiracy theory according to which Jews accuse Poles of the pogrom for their own gain. He stated, *‘What difference does it make for the Jewish side who has murdered them? [...] They care about proving the theory that Poles did it, despite facts’*. Such content can be found in a film entitled *‘Jedwabne. The Real history’*, to which Sommer as the co-director referred to throughout the interview.

GDANSK. In mid-July, near the railway station in the Jasien suburb four underage residents of the Tri-City [area of the three cities: Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia – translator’s note] devastated anti-war murals which were created as part of the Solidarity with Ukraine campaign run by the Pomeranian Metropolitan Railway together with local artists and the Gdansk Academy of Fine Arts. The vandals placed a slogan on the wall describing the country attacked by Russia as *‘Bandera’s Ukraine’* [referring to **Stepan Bandera**, the leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists**, which led an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in Volhynia during 1943-44; in practice, ‘Bandera’ is an ethnic slur frequently used against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator’s note]. They also crossed out the inscription *‘Together we stand’* which was above the mural depicting the brothers Vitaly and Wladimir Klitschko, former heavyweight boxers and world champions. Vitaly has been the Mayor of Kiev since 2014 and they both have become a symbol of Ukraine’s courage in the face of the Russian invasion. Furthermore, the vandals painted a heart over the graffiti of **Hitler’s** face (the faces of Stalin and Putin were next to it). Surveillance cameras recorded the images of the perpetrators but it is not known whether they have been apprehended.

A mural depicting the Klitschko brothers was previously vandalised on 22 June. A man in his 70s put the inscription *‘Fascists, bandits’* next to their image.

KIELCE. On 16 July, during the top flight football match between **Korona Kielce** and Legia Warszawa, local hooligan supporters displayed a racist flag bearing an inscription *'BHBD'* (an acronym standing for words *'White honour, white pride'* from the lyrics of a song of a popular neo-Nazi music band **Konkwista 88**: *'It was a fight to the end for white honour and blood / For white pride, for the Celtic cross'*, the chorus: *'White honour, white pride'*). The Korona football fans also displayed a huge banner in honour of the **Brygada Swietokrzyska** (the **Holy Cross Mountains Brigade**) of the **Narodowe Sily Zbrojne (NSZ, National Armed Forces)**. This was the only Polish formation which collaborated with the Nazi occupiers during World War II. The NSZ murdered members of the left-wing resistance movement and people presumed of Jewish origin. During the match, Kielce hooligan supporters also displayed a banner insulting LGBT people: *'City mayors march with perverts, they don't remember the anniversary of the Genocide of Poles'*, referring to the 2nd Equality March in Kielce on 9 July, which received honorary patronage from the city's mayor Bogdan Wenta (11 July is a National Day of Remembrance of the victims of the Genocide of the Citizens of the Polish Republic committed by Ukrainian Nationalists in 1943 – ed.).

SOSNOWIEC. On 16 July, on Jagiellonska Street an unidentified female attacked a Ukrainian woman who was waiting at a bus stop with her three-year-old daughter. The aggressor heard that she was talking on the phone in Ukrainian and became abusive towards her, *'You are a Ukrainian sl*t, you live here on my account', 'F*ck off to Ukraine'* and *'F*ck off from Poland'*. Her aggression grew and grew, she did not pay attention to the child's crying and she hit the mother several times with her fist on the head. When the victim shouted that she would call the police, the attacker ran away. The police have tried to find her. *'We have no doubt that this was a hate crime. The aggressor attacked the woman because she was Ukrainian'*, said Deputy Commander Sonia Kepper, the spokeswoman for the Sosnowiec police, in a press release. In a statement to the Public Prosecutor's Office the injured Ukrainian woman explained, *'I am still in shock [because of the beating], I had run away from the war to feel safe here with my daughter. Now I don't even feel safe on the street next to the house I live in'*. The police have not informed the public whether the attacker has been apprehended.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 17 July, during the second division football match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** and Arka Gdynia, 'fans' of the hosting club displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence in the so-called 'nest' (a place at a stadium where one person organises support for one of the teams). It carried a neo-fascist slogan *'Good night left side'* and a characteristic graphic image presenting a man kicking another man lying on the ground.

LODZ. On 19 July, local media reported antisemitic inscriptions on the walls of buildings in the Abramowski passage. *'Unknown perpetrators'* had painted slogans such as *'F*ck Jews'* and *'Zydzew'* (an insult used by football hooligans, aimed at Widzew Lodz football club which is a play on the Polish word for a Jew = Zyd). In a press release Jędrzej Koszewski, a social activist involved in the revitalisation of the passage, informed that the abusive inscriptions have been reported to the local authority in February 2021 and in the following months. Some of them have been removed. In the Katedralna housing estate a surveillance camera registered a group of about 20 hooligans who were painting antisemitic slogans. No one was identified and the proceedings were discontinued.

VIENNA (AUSTRIA). On 21 July, during a football qualifying match in the Europa Conference League between Rapid Vienna and Lechia Gdansk, hooligan supporters of **Slask Wroclaw**, who were friends of the visiting club, hung a characteristic red and white banner on the fence inspired by the logo of the neo-Nazi organisation **Blood and Honour** (the words *'Blut und Ehre'* were a motto of the **Hitlerjugend**). It bore an inscription: *'Be proud of who you are. The eagle, the symbol of power, shall guide us'*, which was a quote from a song by **Honor** rock band, expressing support for the ideology of national socialism.



WARSAW. On 21 July, during the sitting of the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament), **Konfederacja (Confederation)** Member of Parliament **Grzegorz Braun** perpetuated conspiracy theories of anti-Ukrainian and antisemitic nature, condemning, in this way, the support offered to the refugees from war-torn Ukraine. In his statement he painted the following phantasmagorical vision, *'Poland will return in its full might and majesty, as long as you do not turn it into Ukro-Pol [Poland allegedly taken over by Ukrainians – ed.] or Ukro-Polin [Polin means Poland in Hebrew, in this case it is antisemitic conspiracy theory according to which 'Ukro-Polin' would be a Jewish-Ukrainian state formed after overtaking Poland – translator's note]. And at this point, General, I turn in all seriousness to the Penitentiary Service, [...] think about whether you really want to click your general's heels in front of somebody unknown [...] in front of a new authority of some new firm, some new state project which is already publicly proclaimed and installed? There is talk of dismantling the Polish-Ukrainian border. [...] [Polish territory] has, alas, become a feeding ground, a licenced feeding ground, among others for the Ukrainian Security Service. [...] I hope that you will be Polish statesmen and not Ukro-Polish statesmen'*.

WARSAW. On 21 July, in Olszyna Park, a group of minors attacked two Ukrainian women. The women were sitting on a bench when they were ambushed by aggressive teenage girls passing by. As a result of the beating, one of the injured women had to be taken to hospital. On 4 August, Kamila Szulc from the Warsaw 5th District Police Headquarters issued a statement: *'Police officers established the identity of six minors. These girls are suspected of committing criminal acts of public insults and beatings carried out because of the victims' nationality and forcing two Ukrainian citizens to specific actions or omissions. Applications for appropriate punishment have been submitted to the local family courts'*.

WARSAW. On 21 July, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube appeared a broadcast titled *'What are the JEWS really hiding?'*, starring **Przemyslaw Holoher**, former leader of the far-right **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)** and head of the foundation **Magna Polonia**. During the broadcast hosted by **Michal Murgrabia**, there was a promotion of an antisemitic book by **Mateusz Jez**, *'Jewish Secrets'*, re-released by the Magna Polonia publishing house. In this publication, the author argued, inter alia, that the Jews allegedly have been committing ritual murders from the Middle Ages to the present day.

During the conversation, Holocher repeated the statements contained in the book by Jez: *'We want to build a certain coherent vision of the world and, above all, stigmatise, stigmatise, stigmatise this hatred from some, especially Talmudic, Jewish environments, because if someone relies on a book full of hate, something like that should be stigmatised as much as possible'*. He also described the Talmud as *'teachings full of hatred towards other nations'*.

Moreover, on the cover of the re-released book of Jez there was the so-called happy merchant, i.e. stereotypical drawing of a Jew rubbing hands with satisfaction. This antisemitic graphic, disseminated in the form of memes, is considered a symbol of hatred by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the American Jewish organisation. During the conversation, Holocher sneeringly referred to the theme used on the cover: *'This is modelled on such a meme, perhaps the most famous one, as the ADL writes, that is, this organisation is allegedly fighting antisemitism, on this «happy merchant» meme. [...] This is, as I say, the ADL writes, the most widespread allegedly antisemitic meme. Father Jez wrote that the Jews do not like jokes about themselves, [and] laughter is good for health'*.

WARSAW. On 22 July, Michal Marszal, the creator of the social media page of 'Nie' weekly, informed on Twitter about a racist incident he had witnessed. An unidentified man shouted to an Indian passing by that he was to *'f*ck off back to Ukraine'*.

GDANSK. On 28 July, during a football qualifying match in the Europa Conference League between **Lechia Gdansk** and Rapid Vienna, Polish 'fans' displayed a banner with a neo-Nazi content on a fence around a football pitch. A characteristic red and white flag stylised to resemble the logo of **Blood and Honour**, an international neo-Nazi organisation, the name of which was a motto of **Hitlerjugend** (*'Blut und Ehre'*). It contained a quote from a song by a neo-fascist rock band **Honor**: *'Be proud of who you are. The eagle, the symbol of power, shall guide us'*.

SULMIERZYCE. On 30 July, an article was published in the local media about the devastation of the Jewish cemetery in this town, which is located in the Pajeczno area, in Lodz Voivodeship, about 40 kilometres north of Czestochowa. For many years, fragments of matzevot and even human bones had been scattered around the necropolis. In 2018, a historian and expert on Jewish cemeteries Krzysztof Bielawski, after visiting the necropolis, pointed out the need to take action to recover the tombstones. In his report, he emphasised that he had found *'several fresh excavations about 0.5 m deep'*, which proved that acts of profanation had taken place in the cemetery (attempts to dig up graves are associated with antisemitic ideas about the alleged material wealth of Jews).

AUGUST 2022

KIELCE. On 1 August, during the top flight football match between **Korona Kielce** and Slask Wroclaw, local 'fans' displayed a banner with racist content. It bore an inscription *'BHBD'*, referring to the words *'Bialy honor, biala дума'* (*'White honour, white pride'*). This is a quote from a song by the neo-Nazi music band **Konkwista 88**.



WARSAW. On 1 August, on the anniversary of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, in a broadcast on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** the host **Piotr Szlachtowicz** and his interlocutor **Wojciech Sumlinski** (co-author of the book *'Return to Jedwabne'* which negates the truth about the anti-Jewish pogrom in 1941) tried to somehow put blame on the refugees from Ukraine for the historical events from World War II. Szlachtowicz claimed, while manipulating the facts, *'It's irritating when this happens, that is that mayors of big cities say that they can't talk [about 'the historical truth of what happened during the Warsaw Uprising' – ed.] because they fear Ukrainians. Then I'm sorry but is it the Republic of Poland or are we all pretending it's Poland?'* Later in the interview Wojciech Sumlinski criticised the Mayor of Warsaw Rafal Trzaskowski who in his written statement emphasised that the sirens that are to commemorate the insurgents [at 5 p.m., the time at which the Uprising broke out, every year alarm sirens are heard throughout the city – translator's note] will have a *'modern tone'* and will constitute a symbol of solidarity with the victims of the war on Ukraine. Sumlinski stated, *'if Trzaskowski claims today that it is a commemoration of Ukrainians as well then it is [...] vicious and disgusting. Because this is not a celebration for Ukrainians, it's a celebration for Poles. [...] Vicious, stupid, and lying, that's what I have to say about the Mayor of Warsaw'*.

PINCZOW. On 3 August, near a park, a 30-year-old assailant hurled racist insults at a 16-year-old city resident because of his skin colour, and also physically abused him. When a colleague who was accompanying the teenager stood up for the victim, the perpetrator hit him as well. The victims were helped by their family members. The police were called to the scene. The attacker was arrested. The man was charged with bodily harm and insulting a 16-year-old on racist grounds, as well as bodily harm to another victim. By the court's order, he was placed in pre-trial detention for one month.

WARSAW. On 3 August, on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** **Wojciech Sumlinski** (the director of the film *'Return to Jedwabne'* which denies the responsibility of Poles for crimes committed against their Jewish neighbours in the Jedwabne pogrom in 1941) connected antisemitic conspiracy theories with the modern context of war in Ukraine in a tirade on the anniversary of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. He claimed, *'Jews from «Gazeta Wyborcza» [a liberal newspaper] wrote that the Uprising was supposed to kill the survivors from the Ghetto, that's why it was instigated, that's what Michnik [Adam, a former anti-communist dissident and the longstanding editor-in-chief of 'Gazeta Wyborcza' – translator's note] and his workers wrote. Then other Jews tried to connect the Warsaw Uprising with the Ghetto Uprising in April '43, so that the whole world would think that there was only one uprising in Warsaw – the Jewish one in the Ghetto. [...] If you travel to the States or Canada, you will hear «yes, we heard something about the uprising, the Jewish Uprising, because Jews fought the Nazis, Poles collaborated with the Nazis». Now mayors of major cities are joining in [...]. Although [Rafal Trzaskowski – the Mayor of Warsaw] agreed to commemorate [the insurgents] with sirens at 5 p.m. he said it in a way that means it will also commemorate Ukrainians at war and that is vicious [...]. It was not an Uprising of Ukrainians'*. Later in the broadcast Sumlinski repeated his false accusations, *'The fight against the heroism of insurgents has been going on for a while now. As I'm saying, Jews tried to diminish the Warsaw Uprising by saying it started to kill the Ghetto*

survivors. Then they tried to connect it with the Jewish Uprising, so that the world would think the Warsaw Uprising was the Jewish Uprising’.

WARSAW. On 3 August, on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** the host **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** showed infographics that were to compare the number of Ukrainians in the Second Polish Republic (1918-1939) and now, after the arrival of war refugees, and talked about the vision of supposed threats they bring, *‘An interesting, historical comparison, showing that in fact a lot has changed in Poland, that we are not a nationally homogenous country anymore. What I think was a big advantage of Poland was simply being a homogenous country. This was of course not liked by the supporters of multi-culti and in a way maybe they achieved their goal that we are not a nationally homogenous country anymore. Now it’s the past, but what will come of it? In my opinion not only good things, to put it lightly’.*

Moreover Luksza was indignant about a decision taken by one of the parishes in Radom, which in gesture of solidarity with the youngest refugees decided to charge them differently for a summer camp they organised. The host of wRealu24 by showing an image containing information about the summer camp, incited xenophobic sentiments: *‘Here we have selected Ukrainian children: [the charge is] 300 PLN, Polish children 800 PLN. How come? What is this discrimination? What is it supposed to be? Discrimination of Polish children in Poland? Unless we are not Poland anymore, in the context of the previous infographics as well. Maybe we are something... well we all know the terms, Ukropol [a conspiracy theory according to which Ukrainians will take over Poland – translator’s note] and so on’.*

WARSAW. On 3 August, during a programme on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** the host **Marcin Rola** used historical topics once again to arouse feelings of animosity towards Jews and Ukrainians. Referring to official speeches made in connection with the anniversary of the outbreak of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising in which representatives of the government expressed solidarity with the victims of war in Ukraine, Rola said, *‘I simply despise these people who one day smear their mouths with Polishness, patriotism, Warsaw Uprising, you know it, the Accursed Soldiers, and so on, and the next day already Poland is Polin, and Volhynia, who cares about Volhynia, the only thing that matters is the Holocaust, and it looks like Volhynia practically never happened’.* [‘Polin’ is the Hebrew word meaning Poland; in this context it was a jeering negation of common Polish-Jewish history. Volhynia is a region belonging to Poland before World War II, where in 1943 Ukrainian nationalists staged a bloodbath on Polish inhabitants; these nationalists represented ca. 2% of the then Ukrainian population and today’s Ukrainians cannot be held responsible. The so-called ‘Accursed Soldiers’ is a name given to a group of anti-communist guerrilla which operated in Poland after 1945 – translator’s note].

WROCLAW. On 6 August, during the top flight football match between **Slask Wroclaw** and Widzew Lodz, local hooligan fans addressed antisemitic slogans at supporters of the opposing club with the following words: *‘Your home is in Auschwitz’* and *‘Lodz Zydzew’* [combination of words: «Zyd» – Jew and «Widzew» – a Lodz-based football club], *I hate this w*ore’.* Anti-Jewish slurs are considered particularly offensive by football hooligan supporters.

WARSAW. On 6 August, the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** YouTube channel released a conversation with its editor-in-chief **Robert Bakiewicz** in which he suggested that the Jews are manipulating the remembrance of the Holocaust for their own political and financial ends. He stated: *‘As an example, there are these Jews who exploit it [political history – translator’s note] to the limits of possibility, sometimes bending historical facts, building a certain cult around it, one could say a religion, as the Jews themselves sometimes call it, those who are not favourably disposed to this type of behaviour. They often extort money from countries through this system of historical propaganda’.*

TYCHY. On 7 August, during a meeting of the second division football team GKS Tychy – **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala**, hooligans of the visiting club displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. The flag featured the slogan *‘Good night left side’* (used by neo-fascist groups) and a distinctive image showing an attacker kicking a man lying on the ground.

ZABRZE. On 7 August, during the top flight football match between Gornik Zabrze and **Rakow Czestochowa**, visiting hooligan ‘fans’ displayed a banner expressing support for **Janusz Walus**, a Polish immigrant and racist murderer serving a life sentence in South Africa [on parole since December 2022 – translator’s note]. The flag was displayed in the so-called ‘nest’ (a place at a stadium where one person organises support for one of the teams). Rakow fans have been displaying banners in honour of Walus for several years with impunity and without any legal steps taken by football authorities.



POLAND. On 8 August, the weekly TV magazine **Kropka TV** (distributed in ‘Biedronka’ supermarket chain) published an advertisement with homophobic content. In the central part of the full-page text on potency products a slogan was placed: *‘Don’t let them call you gay behind your back. Regain 100% of your masculinity’.* It also included the slur *‘F*ggot’.* After the case was exposed in the media by NGOs, Biedronka issued the following statement: *‘Biedronka strongly dissociates itself from homophobic content that violates dignity. [...] Due to the situation, we have decided to withdraw from our shops the entire print of the magazine carrying content in opposition to our company values’.*

LODZ. On 12 August, during the top flight football match between Widzew Lodz and **Legia Warszawa**, capital’s football hooligan fans shouted antisemitic slogans at supporters of the hosting team: *‘Zydzew [combination of words: «Zyd» – Jew and «Widzew» – a Lodz-based football club], I hate this w*ore’* and *‘Hamas, Hamas, Juden auf den Gas!’* (*‘Hamas, Hamas, Jews to the gas!’*). The latter chant was adopted many years ago by Legia’s pseudo-fans from a fellow Dutch football club ADO Den Haag, known for the antisemitism of its supporters.

TYCHY. On 13 August, during the second division football match between GKS Tychy and **Wisla Krakow**, visiting ‘fans’ chanted antisemitic slurs at the club from Tychy: *‘F*ck the Jews, mother f*ckers!’*

WARSAW. On 13 August, commentator of state-owned television channel **TVP Info Anna Derewienko** published a dehumanising post on Twitter about children born through in vitro methods. She stated, *'With in-vitro children it's like with dogs from a kennel. Instead of buying those from kennels and expanding kennels, we should focus on dogs already born'*. Her statement was met with much condemnation. Derewienko has not removed her comment.

WARSAW. On 13 August, on the Flotyła Wisłana Boulevard a couple from Belarus was attacked by two men. The attack was racially motivated. One of the attackers approached the woman and hit her on the back of the head. He shouted, *'Get the f*ck out of Poland'*. His acquaintance joined the attack and shoved the woman and her partner. The Belarusians called the police and followed the perpetrators so as not to let them flee the scene but were then attacked again. The woman later reported, *'The bald man turned around and started charging at us. He got to my boyfriend, knocked him over and started kicking his head and body. My boyfriend managed to break free and ran towards me. Then the other man joined the aggressor. He grabbed me by the hair and hit me on the head while holding and pulling hard'*. The city guards caught one of the attackers and handed him over to the police. Proceedings have been initiated in this case.

GLOGOW. On 14 August, during the second division football match between Chrobry Glogow and **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala**, visiting hooligan supporters belonging to the **Narodowe Podbeskidzie (National Podbeskidzie)**, a far-right group) displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. It featured a neo-fascist slogan *'Good night left side'*, as well as a graphic representing an attacker kicking a man lying on the ground.

POZNAN. On 14 August, during the top flight football match between Lech Poznan and **Slask**



Wrocław, 'fans' of the visiting club displayed a characteristic banner with logo resembling the one of the international neo-Nazi organisation **Blood and Honour** (its name was taken from the **Hitlerjugend** motto: *'Blut und Ehre'*). The flag bore an inscription: *'Be proud of who you are. The eagle, the*

symbol of power, shall guide us' – this was a quote from a song by a neo-Nazi rock band **Honor**.

WARSAW. On 18 August, an interview with **Wojciech Sumlinski**, co-author of the book and film *'Return to Jedwabne'*, in which the historical truth concerning the 1941 Jedwabne pogrom is denied, appeared on the YouTube channel the **Media Narodowe (National Media)**. In a conversation with the presenter **Michał Jelonek**, Sumlinski repeated conspiracy theories about the alleged pursuit of the Jews to take over Poland. He talked or rather babbled at length saying, inter alia: *'The Jews are playing their game. They invested billions of dollars in the lie about Polish Nazism in order to get hundreds of billions of dollars and build a Polin here ['Polin' is a Hebrew word for Poland – translator's note]. [...] When our external situation is so difficult that we will have to recognize that these Jewish claims, pulled out of a hat, are the lesser evil, that will be the moment for their decisive attack. [...] The situation in the east is uncertain, the German Fourth Reich is in the west and on top*

of this the Jews are constructing Polin here. This is a very serious threat, a deadly threat I would say, because it comes both from the outside and the inside'. Later on in the broadcast, Sumlinski argued: 'We have a lot of the Jews, who wear the badge «Polish patriot» but in fact, when they decide that the time is right, will attack Poland to fight for Jewish interests'. This material appeared on the National Media channel with a heading: 'URGENT! Sumlinski ROARS: BILLIONS of dollars spent to build POLIN here' and it had over 56,000 views over 48 hours.

BYDGOSZCZ. On 19 August, in a shop on Grunwaldzka Street an aggressive man attacked two customers from Ukraine. He insulted the woman, and when a witness of the incident (also a citizen of Ukraine) stood up for her, the attacker took out a knife and hit the witness on the head with the handle of the knife. He then threatened the Ukrainian with death and pointed the sharp end at him. The bandit also hit the woman in the face with his fist. He snatched her cell phone from her hand and smashed it on the floor. *'He insulted both people verbally, addressing them with offensive and obscene words referring to their origin',* reported Lidia Kowalska from the press team of the Provincial Police Headquarters in Bydgoszcz. The injured Ukrainian was taken to hospital. The police launched an investigation into the assault. The officers detained a 44-year-old resident of Gdansk who had come to visit friends in Bydgoszcz. The man was charged with using violence against Ukrainian citizens because of their nationality, making criminal threats, destroying property, and violating bodily integrity. By court decision, he was arrested for three months pending the proceedings.

WARSAW. On 19 August, the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** broadcast a programme on Facebook in which the **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party Member of Parliament and one of the presidential candidates in 2020 **Krzysztof Bosak** fuelled animosity towards the refugees from Ukraine as well as migrants from other countries. He stated, *'Some legal super-status was created especially for Ukrainians. I have no doubt that [behind this political move – ed.] is the wish to bring in and settle a maximum number of Ukrainians or generally people from outside of Poland. [...] This is shameful, this should never happen'. He also falsely identified Muslims with terrorism: 'It's enough to just take a walk in the biggest cities in Poland to see that they differ less and less from any multicultural Western metropolis, where a so-called cultural melting pot is created [...]. Few people know that that one of the leading groups of migrants entering Poland, besides Belarusians and Ukrainians are, for example Uzbeks, a country that is ninety something percent Muslim [sic!]. With a long history of recruitment for various jihadist groups'.*

WARSAW. On 19 August, the far-right channel **wRealu24** broadcast (on Facebook) a programme in which the host **Marcin Rola** and his interlocutor **Wojciech Sumlinski** (co-author of books negating the historical truth about the anti-Jewish pogrom in Jedwabne in 1941) commented in a jeering way on the information about the formation of a help fund for Ukrainian children whose parents were killed in the war, as well as for women who were freed from Russian captivity. (As the patron of the fund, created on 17 August 2022, the blessed Fr. Klemens Szeptycki was chosen; born 1869, died 1951, a Polish-Ukrainian clergyman of the Greek Catholic Church. In 1995 he was posthumously awarded the title of the Righteous Among the Nations. The fund is operated by Fundacja Solidarnosci Miedzynarodowej – Solidarity Fund PL, which supports pro-democratic

institutions and democracy in developing countries, in close cooperation with Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Wereszczuk). Referring to the declared sums of support Sumlinski stated, *'Why 10 thousand [PLN]? Why not 100 thousand? Perhaps we should go further [...], maybe a hundred to every Ukrainian lady who went through a trauma'*. He was seconded by Rola, *'Can we beat trauma by ten zeros, if I can use that expression? This is completely pathological'*. Later in the programme Sumlinski stated, *'What is the state doing in reality? We can keep on talking a lot about those mean and deceitful Jews because, unfortunately, they are like that. But Israel is a real country when their interests require it'*.

WARSAW. On 26 August, in 3 Maja Avenue, two police officers acted in an aggressive, xenophobic way towards a Ukrainian citizen. During the intervention (the man was delivering pizza and had parked his car in an unauthorised place), the police officers threatened him, *'I'll punch you in the face, you...'*, they also addressed him, *'If you don't like being here, go the f*ck back to Ukraine'*. The man recorded the incident with his phone. Warsaw Police Headquarters was informed of the case and disciplinary proceedings were initiated against the officers. In November, the media informed that disciplinary penalties were been imposed on the police officers. They received a *'warning of incomplete suitability for service in the position held'* and... could not be promoted for 12 months. Their service bonus was also temporarily reduced.

PILA. On 27 August, in the park on the Island representatives of **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth**, far-right group) held a protest during which they displayed slogans insulting LGBT people. They had a huge banner with them which contained the slogan *'Pila [city] without sodomy'* (the letters on the banner were rainbow-coloured). The supporters of the far right were thus trying to disturb the Equality March (Pride) in Pila and the debate on transgenderism taking place on that day.

LUBLIN. On 30 August, three Black students were attacked based on their race by a group of several men who happened to walk by them in the street. The attackers shouted, *'Black c*nts'* and started to assault them with their fists. Police was called to the scene. The victims were helped by one of the witnesses of the incident. One of the students informed the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association about the attack. Moreover, he said, *'I am a Black student in Poland, Lublin and we constantly are getting attacked and insulted by groups of Polish inhabitants of the city (the attackers are usually in groups in public areas or transport) and it's getting too much, especially for the women. Police do not help, they will tell us they don't understand English'*. He added, *'Insults are getting so bad, to an extent that those [students] who have been here longer and understand Polish are advising us not to learn Polish, because we are better off when we don't understand what they say'*. This student also described another racially motivated incident, *'We were walking around town and when we were passing some restaurant, they insulted us in Polish and one of my friends happens to speak Polish and asked them what the problem was. They told us to go back to where we came from'*. Two other guests of the restaurant stood up in their defence.

WARSAW. Towards the end of August, in one of the kindergartens in the Stare Bielany area two women employed there voiced racist comments in connection with the acceptance into the

institution of a boy coming from a mixed Polish-African family. Describing the circumstances of this case the mother of the child said that she had received a phone call from the kindergarten, but she did not pick up in time. Because she had her voice mail machine switched on, the phone call was recorded. It contained statements from two employees who called (and did not end the connection). The women made fun of the African-sounding surname of the child which they could not pronounce, and both traded insults about the child's father. One of them said, *'So maybe he doesn't f*cking speak Polish?'* to which the other one responded, *'Take it easy, if he lives in Poland, he will have to learn. F*ck it, in France he had to speak French immediately'*. The Director of the kindergarten and the School Board were notified about the behaviour of both employees. The spokeswoman for the Bielany district Magdalena Borek stated in a press release, *'We apologise for the reprehensible behaviour of those employees of the kindergarten. As the authority responsible for the educational institution, we firmly condemn any and all manifestations of racism, whether motivated by culture, race or religion, and instead we expect empathy and sensitivity from employees of the kindergarten. For that reason, the two employees of the kindergarten suffered the consequences of their action. On 22 September, the Director of the kindergarten handed in her resignation'*.

SEPTEMBER 2022

RZESZOW. On 1 September, on a Facebook profile of 'Igor Isajev [journalist] – a Ukrainian in Poland', under a post concerning a bombing of a school in Ukraine by Russian troops, one of the residents of Rzeszow **Wojciech N.** posted a comment in which he expressed appreciation of this crime and incited contempt and hostility towards Ukrainians, *'They taught f*ck all in those schools anyway, well maybe only [the phrase] «50 quid for a BJ», to prepare them for work they'd be doing their whole life'*. An internet user notified the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Rzeszow of the post. On 12 September, the Public Prosecutor's Office refused to open an investigation into incitement to hatred on the grounds of national differences and insulting a group of people of Ukrainian nationality. The person who took action against hateful post provided information on the case to the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association.

WARSAW. On 1 September, an interview with **Robert Bakiewicz**, leader of the **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci (March of Independence Association)**, was broadcast on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube. It concerned the issue of German reparations for World War II. During the interview, Bakiewicz accused the Jews of exploiting the memory of the Holocaust for financial purposes: *'How effective in this regard the policy pursued by Israel and Jewish organisations in the world: they have absolutely no legal basis [...], by carrying out such systematic, lasting historical propaganda, have already obtained enormous compensation from various countries, although they had no rights or grounds for that'*. In this context, Bakiewicz repeated the conspiracy theory about the alleged erasure by both the Jews and Germans – for political purposes – of the truth about the Holocaust: *'Why are the Jews so good at these issues? [...] They also agreed with the Germans on this issue that the responsibility for Germany would be transferred to other states, onto other nations'*.

WARSAW. On 2 September, on Rozlucka Street in the Praga-South area, two aggressive men and a woman who accompanied them verbally attacked a group of young Ukrainians with vulgar

xenophobic insults. They did not let them use a playing field on which Ukrainians regularly play football with Poles and Belarusians. The assailants shouted, *'This is a Polish bench! Get the f*ck out of here! There are no Ukrainian benches here!'* *'Where's your Ukraine? Somewhere in Kiev, so get the f*ck out of here!'* *'You're in Poland, you have to do what we f*cking want, and not the other way'*, and *'Get the f*ck out of Poland!'* The woman uttered threats towards the young Ukrainians, *'You want to have your faces smashed?'* When one of them was pushed by a Pole, her aggression reached a higher pitch: *'When I give you f*cking hell, you'll know why I am beating you up!'* Then she used an order expressed in Russian to *'get going'*, which, when said in a Polish context, is considered extremely insulting. This incident was reported to the police. The assailants were arrested. One of the men and the woman were charged with *'uttering unlawful threats against a group of people or single persons, based on their nationality'*, while the other man who turned himself in was charged with discrimination (according to Article 119 of the Penal Code pertaining to use of force or uttering threats based on nationality, ethnicity, or race).

WARSAW. On 2 September, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, **Tomasz Stala**, the owner of the **3dom** publishing house from Czestochowa, known for publishing books with antisemitic content, appeared in a t-shirt which said: *'We do not want the Jews, homosexuals, abortion, taxes, the European Union'*. He also displayed a mug with such a slogan in front of the camera (it was a quotation from **Slawomir Mentzen**, who had proclaimed the *slogan as 'the five demands of the Confederation'* as a candidate for the European Parliament in 2019. At the end of June 2022, the Municipal Police Headquarters in Czestochowa initiated an investigation into public incitement to hatred on the basis of national differences by offering t-shirts and mugs with such content for sale. On 30 August, the officers seized these items at the headquarters of the 3dom publishing house. In an interview with Jan Bodakowski, Stala referred to the offered gadgets as follows: *'It is a great marketing gimmick and somehow fits in a humorous way with the narrative presented by the 3dom publishing house'*. In this context, he also insulted the **'NEVER AGAIN'** Association. He declared: *'We are at total war with this devilish spawn'* (in 2021, the 3dom publishing house sued **'NEVER AGAIN'** due to the fact that in 2020, the popular e-commerce platform Allegro, after the association reported hateful content, removed several items sold by 3dom). At the end of the conversation, Stala again propagated the false accusations against the association: *'The devil's spawn «NEVER AGAIN» or some other criminal organisation, because I consider them to be such, because they act to the detriment of the Polish state and the Polish nation'*.

GDANSK. On 3 September, during the top flight football match between **Lechia Gdansk** and Warta Poznan, local hooligan supporters displayed a banner with an image of **Janusz Walus** which read: *'Nothing will break you, you are not alone'*. Walus is a Polish migrant given a life sentence in South Africa for the 1993 racist murder of Chris Hani, a politician who fought against apartheid.

WARSAW. During the night of 3/4 September, *'unknown perpetrators'* brutally beat up Minh Pham Duc, a footballer of Vietnamese origin, playing for the Alternative Sports Club Zly ['Bad'; this football club organises free football classes for refugees, and also focuses on the inclusion of disabled players – translator's note] in the sixth division (Warsaw II group). According to the official statement *'He [the sportsman] suffered multiple bodily injuries, including craniofacial fractures. He came round*

only in the hospital. There is strong evidence pointing to the attack being racially motivated'. In response to this attack, on 15 October, the authorities of the Alternative Sports Club organised football playoffs against racism. *'We are deeply shocked by what has happened. This time it was Duc who was attacked, but we cannot forget about acts of aggression against people who had made their home in Poland fleeing from war and persecution [...] We should start speaking out loudly that there will be no consent to any return of racist demons! The Alternative Sports Club Zly, from its inception, shows that a different face of sport, based on respect and acceptance of diversity, is possible. We are building a new culture for sport fans, free of hate and aggression'*. During this action of solidarity, a banner was unfurled over the stadium with the motto of the campaign 'Let's Kick Racism out of the Stadiums' launched by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association.

LEGNICA. On 4 September, on Grodzka Street one of the city's residents tore down a rainbow flag (expressing support for LGBT people) from the entrance to La Musica Club. He threw it on the ground and walked away. The incident was recorded by a surveillance camera. The owners of the club made the recording available online. According to Anna Tersa from the press team of Legnica Police Station, the perpetrator of the attack reported himself to the police station and admitted his guilt. He was charged with destruction of property for hooligan motives.

POZNAN. On 4 September, during the top flight football match between **Lech Poznan** and Widzew Lodz, 'fans' of the hosting team arranged a giant card stunt in the stadium which formed an acronym



'SZK', standing for 'Death to the Jewish w*ore'. Among hooligan supporters, this is a popular antisemitic slur, often aimed at Widzew Lodz. A message of this slogan was boosted by a huge

banner displayed on a fence along a football pitch. It read: *'In the name of three letters'* (referring to the 'SZK' acronym).

WARSAW. On 4 September, an unrecognised woman protested near the Presidential Palace and displayed a banner with antisemitic content. It was a reprint of a Nazi propaganda poster with slogans: *'Beware of epidemic typhus. Avoid Jews'*, as well as an image depicting a stereotypical Jew wearing a frock coat, large lice walking around, and a death skull in the background. A representative of the Obywatele RP social movement (Citizens of the Republic of Poland) informed the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association about the incident.

SZCZECIN. On 8 September, the Provincial Police Headquarters in Szczecin informed in a press release that on a gardening allotment on Rolna street one of the owners paved a path leading up to their gazebo with tombstones removed from the Evangelical cemetery in Golecin. They were dated from the beginning of the 20th century and were part of tombstones of previous German dwellers on this land. In accordance with the decision of the Community Service Enterprise in Szczecin, these tombstones were taken back to the cemetery. As released by the press office of the police, *'the perpetrator who took the historic tombstones from the cemetery may be charged with the crime of*

theft, in addition to profanation of the burial site. The investigation is ongoing'. The cemetery in Golecin was established in 1862. In the year 2011 it was entered into the register of Historical Sites.

LODZ. On 9 September, during the top flight football match between **Widzew Lodz** and Cracovia Krakow, hooligan supporters of the hosting team shouted vulgar slogans with antisemitic content. They chanted at Cracovia: *'Whether it's a scythe or a maquette, you've got no foreskin on your d*cks!'*

CZESTOCHOWA. On 11 September, during the top flight football match between **Rakow Czestochowa** and Legia Warszawa, four supporters of the local club attacked four citizens of Nigeria and Congo. Assistant Police Commissioner Sabina Chyra-Gieres, spokeswoman for the Municipal Police Headquarters in Czestochowa, reported: *'Four students from Czestochowa entered the stadium and were heading for the designated sector, when hooligans blocked their way. They heard a lot of racist insults and death threats from the hostile fans. These hooligans pushed them out of the stands, not allowing them to see the match'*. The police identified and found four residents of Czestochowa, three of them (aged 31, 42, and 47) were detained. During the arrest of the 31-year-old the officers found baseball bats, an axe, and a weapon-like object, which was sent for further examination. The second man, 47, was additionally responsible for promoting fascism. By court decision, he was temporarily arrested for two months, while the 42-year-old and the 31-year-old were placed under police supervision.

WARSAW. On 14 September, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube appeared **Stanislaw Michalkiewicz**, a columnist for the extreme-right bi-weekly magazine *'Najwyższy Czas!'* (*'High Time!'*), who disseminated antisemitic conspiracy theories and undermined the historical truth about the Jedwabne pogrom in 1941. He stated: *'The Jewish side [...] draws a big rent from the Holocaust and the entire Jewish historical policy is subordinated to this goal. Moreover, it is coordinated with German historical policy. The effect of this coordination is, among other things, confirmation of the belief that in Jedwabne there were even no Germans, not to mention Nazis, only Polish neighbours, and so on. This is absolutely not true'*. Later in the program, Michalkiewicz recalled the constant thread of his speeches regarding the alleged omnipotent influence of the Jews on the authorities of world powers: *'[...] the administration, regardless of who rules the United States, jumps, dances as the local Jewish lobby plays'*.

LIMANOWA. On 15 September, at the basilica during an opening mass of the indulgenced feast, **Leszek Leszkiewicz**, auxiliary bishop of the Tarnow Diocese, gave a sermon in which he made homophobic comments. He declared that as a result of the current *'prosperity'*, a person can *'start living against his own nature'*. He elaborated on this statement as follows: *'He can try his luck through homosexual relationships, through all sorts of degenerations related to sexual life, of one kind or another'*. Thus, by declaring same-sex relationships to be against *'nature'* / to be *'degenerate'*, the bishop evoked contempt for LGBT people.

WARSAW. On 18 September the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube aired a programme titled *'The Rev. Jean Michel Gleize REVEALS what JUDAISM is! «It's one big illusion»'*.

The guest, introduced in this way, is a French clergyman, professor of the International Seminary of St. Pius X in Ecône in Switzerland. (Members of the Pius X fraternity, known as Lefebvrites, stemming from the name of its founder, archbishop **Marcel Lefebvre** who reject the decisions of the Second Vatican Council, reject ecumenism and interfaith dialogue). Gleize used the Media Narodowe programme to promote his book, titled *'Real Israel and false Judaism'* (published in Poland in 2022). In the ensuing conversation, Gleize stated that *'in the eyes of the Church, their [the Jews'] existence, their persistent existence as an institution which claims the right to be a figure of something which had already happened while they state that is still to happen, is problematic. [...] the continued existence of such an institution which keeps on wanting to be a figure, constitutes an offence to God. An offence of the theological nature, in other words, blasphemy'*. According to the priest, *'Judaism is the secret of the essential fundamental anti-Christian movement'* and should *'disappear, blending into the Church'*. Such words have an un unequivocal antisemitic overtone, all the more so because Gleize used the concepts *'Judaism'*, *'chosen nation'* and *'nation'* (meaning Jewish) interchangeably as one, stating, for example, that *'this nation represents [...] infidelity towards God and this [...] bears the aspect of blasphemy'*.

WARSAW. On 21 September, in a broadcast on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, a guest of the host **Michal Jelonek** was **Dominik Cwikla** from the **Kontrrewolucja.net** portal. In an interview on the EU *'threatening with sanctions'* against Hungary and Poland (due to violations of the rule of law), Cwikla made an Islamophobic comment. He stated: *'Only in the case of Hungarians it really started from the time before... well, years ago, this was this... after all, we called it the Islamic invasion of Europe, and from that moment Hungary is in the crosshair'*. Cwikla probably referred to the humanitarian crisis which intensified in mid-2015, when refugees from the war-torn countries of the Middle East and North Africa (especially Syria and Eritrea) tried to enter Europe.

WARSAW. On 24 September, racist expressions and symbols appeared on buildings surrounding the Mirowski Square. *'Unknown perpetrators'* painted on the walls the words *'Kill Nigers'* (original spelling), the signs of the Celtic cross (symbolising the superiority of the so-called *'white race'*), as well as the number *'1488'* (in it, *'88'* means *'Heil Hitler'*, derived from the 8th letter of the alphabet, while *'14'* relates to fourteen words forming the sentence: *'We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children'*. The author of the slogan was **David Lane**, the leader of racist terrorists from the American group calling itself **The Order**, which found its inspiration in Hitler's *'Mein Kampf'*). Besides the mentioned slogans, swastikas were painted on the buildings.

WARSAW. On 24 September, the streets of Warsaw witnessed the protest march under the slogan: ‘*Stop Ukrainisation of Poland*’, organised by **Konfederacja Korony Polskiej (Confederation of the Polish Crown)**, a far-right party headed by the Member of Parliament **Grzegorz Braun**. The participants of this demonstration chanted xenophobic slogans and propagated anti-Ukrainian conspiracy theories. They unfurled banners that contained the following: ‘*This is Poland and not Ukropol!*’



(a conspiracy theory name for Poland seized by Ukraine), ‘*Stop exchanging the ethnic structure of Poland*’. They also shouted slogans calling for violence, ‘*A stick will be found for Bandera’s snout*’ (**Stepan Bandera** was the leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists**, which led an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in Volhynia during 1943-44; in practice, ‘Bandera’ is an ethnic slur frequently used against all Ukrainians in Poland today). In front of the Presidential Palace, Braun spoke to those who gathered there, standing against a backdrop of Konfederacja’s banner containing the slogan ‘*Stop Ukrainisation of Poland*’, as well as the expression ‘*Ukropol*’ with a poster showing a map of Poland covered in Ukrainian colours and crossed out. Braun stated, ‘*I once again bring to you the motto «Stop Ukrainisation of Poland». [...] This autumn already, some legal automatic procedures will begin to function which within a short time may lead to a change in structure, not only of population but pertaining to vast crowds of Polish citizens who acquire rights and by acquisition of these rights start demands. [...] Soon they will reach for political rights. [...] Such, then, is our right and our patriotic duty to voice: «Stop Ukrainisation of Poland»*’. This slogan is the motto of an action carried out by Braun and Konfederacja. The initiative Stop Ukrainisation of Poland was discussed on 14 July 2022, during the session of the Parliamentary Group for International Relations and Interests of Poland and Polish Diaspora, comprising only three MPs, all from Konfederacja, i.e. Braun, **Artur Dziambor** and **Konrad Berkowicz**. They vowed to halt a ‘*process of Ukrainisation of Poland, transforming Poland into a hybrid entity called Ukraino-Polonia*’.

On 25 September, Tomasz Terlikowski, a Catholic intellectual and author, informed on Twitter about antisemitic posts which appeared in response to his critical commentary about the manifestation in Warsaw. Terlikowski wrote, ‘*When I see Konfederacja people protesting under the sign #stopukrainisationofpoland, I have the urge to write #stopputinisationofpoland. The problem is deeper, because it involves not only proper support of Putin, but also total lack of moral and humanitarian judgement. Thus #stopbeastliness!*’ In response, the following were posted: ‘*Get the f*ck out of here, you Jewish c*nt*’ and ‘*#StopUkrainisationofPoland, you f*cking wart*’ (the word ‘wart’ is traditionally used by Polish antisemites to dehumanise Jews).

CARDIFF (WALES). On 25 September, after the end of the Nations League match between Welsh and Polish national teams, Welsh police detained seven Polish hooligan supporters in connection with acts they had committed at the stadium. As stated in a press release, three of these men had been charged for ‘*racially motivated public order offences*’.

WARSAW. On 27 September, on the far-right channel **wRealu24** (broadcast on **BanBye.pl** platform) **Tomasz Stala**, the owner of the **3dom** publishing house from Czestochowa (which offers antisemitic publications), promoted a reprint of the book entitled *‘Dangerous Matters’* by Dr. **Dariusz Ratajczak**. Ratajczak was a historian, accused in 1999 of Holocaust denial (he denied, among other things, the murder of Jews in gas chambers in Auschwitz). On 11 December 2001, the District Court in Opole found him guilty but waived the punishment due to the *‘insignificant degree of social harmfulness of the act’* and conditionally suspended the proceedings for one year. Ratajczak died in 2010 as a result of alcohol poisoning. In a broadcast entitled *‘Ratajczak – Death for Antisemitism?’* Stala spread some conspiracy theories according to which Ratajczak has allegedly been murdered by Jews because of the content of his books: *‘[...] he was a warning sign for others who wanted to engage in Holocaust revisionism or other matters, so naturally, following the reasoning of Jews [...] perhaps the death of Dariusz Ratajczak was not an accident’*. He also stated, *‘The author is no longer among us because he did not hesitate to write on any subject’*.

During the conversation, Stala developed another conspiracy theory concerning Article 55 of the Law on the Institute of National Remembrance (which prohibits the denial of Nazi crimes): according to him *‘The Auschwitz lie is a tactic to scare people so that they don’t get down to the subject of the number of Jews who died’*. Moreover, in the course of his arguments, he himself undermined the historical truth about the death camps, *‘Let’s be honest, these gas chambers were rebuilt in 1946, because they had been allegedly bombed and were only rebuilt for visitors. There are so many question marks and doubts [...] when they forbid us to talk about something, the human mind builds up ideas [...]. The moment it is forbidden to do so, we can find that someone cares about hiding certain facts’*. Later, with no relation to Ratajczak’s story, Stala added anti-Ukrainian content to the antisemitic theme, *‘The people who were vilifying [him] were zoological enemies of Poland and Polishness. Previously Jewish collaborators, now Ukrainian collaborators who have only changed the flag they are worshipping’*.

CHOJNICE. On 30 September, during the second division football match between **Chojniczanka Chojnice** and Wisla Krakow, ‘fans’ of the hosting team hung a banner on the fence around a football pitch displaying a symbol of so-called Totenkopf (a death’s head). It was used by members of special **SS** units (**SS-Totenkopfverbände**) who were guards in Nazi concentration camps.

OCTOBER 2022

LUBLIN. On 1 October, during a match between second division football club **Motor Lublin** and Siarka Tarnobrzeg, hooligan supporters of the local club hung a banner on a fence surrounding a football pitch with the **SS** motto: *‘Our honour is loyalty’* (original: *‘Meine Ehre heißt Treue’*). This flag has been displayed during Motor’s matches for years, without any reaction from the football authorities.

BELCHATOW. An October edition of the stadium hooligan magazine *‘To My Kibice’* (*‘It’s Us Fans’*) published an interview with Subcarpathian football club **Czarni Jaslo** fans. When asked by an editor: *‘I have always associated you guys as an awesome right-wing team. The «Politically*

Incorrect», «White people, black characters» and Celtic crosses are hanging at your matches. I understand that the influence of skinheads has always been significant in your stands?», the fans from Jaslo replied: ‘Of course. Right-wingless runs in our veins, it flows in our blood. We’re white people, we love our country, we’re Poles – it’s kind of obvious. Perhaps to some extent our attitudes have also been shaped by the many years of struggling with all sorts of rabble that passed through our city. The city authorities provided temporary housing for Roma people, among others, and this incited our hatred [...]’. Thus, the pseudo-fans expressed their support for both the racist symbolism in stadiums and, above all, the physical attacks on the Roma minority that they have committed.

This interview was illustrated with photographs taken during football matches. In one of them, next to a banner of Czarni Jaslo, there was also a racist flag of hooligan fans of the Slovakian club **Tatran Preszow**, friends of the Jaslo supporters. It resembled an American **Confederacy** flag (used in the 19th century during the Civil War by Southern states fighting to maintain slavery), nowadays considered as a symbol of racial discrimination. The banner also bore a slogan: ‘*White boys*’.

WROCLAW. On 3 October, during the top flight football match between **Slask Wroclaw** and Warta Poznan, local hooligan supporters displayed an anti-Ukrainian banner on a fence around a football



pitch. It bore the slogan ‘*Stop the Ukrainisation of Poland*’, a slogan of a campaign led by a far-right party **Konfederacja (Confederation)**. On 14 July, during a meeting of the Parliamentary Group for International Relations and the Interests of Poland and the Polish Diaspora (composed only of three parliament members who got to the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament) from the Confederation’s lists: **Grzegorz Braun**, **Artur Dziambor** and **Konrad Berkowicz**) dealt with the

project ‘*Stop the Ukrainisation of Poland*’. According to the conspiracy theories spread by this group there is an ongoing ‘*process of Ukrainisation of Poland, transforming it into a hybrid state – Ukraino-Poland*’. For several months now, a series of street demonstrations have been taking place under the slogan ‘*Stop the Ukrainisation of Poland*’ (including the one on 24 September in Warsaw). Participants used slogans insulting Ukrainians and inciting violence against them.

A display of a xenophobic banner was condemned by Slask Wroclaw spokesman – Jędrzej Rybak, who reminded of humanitarian actions organised by the club for refugees from Ukraine: ‘*Before the meeting we did not know that such a banner would appear in the stadium. Let’s remember that since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Slask Wroclaw has been actively involved in helping our eastern neighbours. The club has provided financial and material support. Players and staff of our club have been involved in helping people in need and supporting local organisations*’.

WARSAW. On 5 October, Piotr Nowak, journalist and sports director of the Alternative Sports Club Zły (‘Bad’; a football club that organises free football classes for refugees, and also focuses on the inclusion of disabled players), posted an appeal on Twitter for help in determining the identity of the perpetrator who devastated the car belonging to his acquaintance, a woman who was a refugee

from Ukraine. As related by Nowak, during the night of 1/2 March, in the Grochow area *'someone drove an axe into the car belonging to my friend. The car, with Ukrainian registration plates, was parked in the backyard of the house on 3 Modrzewiowa Street. One day earlier, someone had urinated on it and had smeared three eggs on the car body. The woman had arrived in Warsaw a month earlier, fleeing from the war zone'*.

WARSAW. On 5 October, **WeszloTV** YouTube channel broadcast a programme where **Grzegorz Szamotulski**, a former Polish football player (goalkeeper), made a comment tinged with antisemitism. In the course of a conversation about football clubs coached by Stefan Majewski, he used the term *'Zydzew'* in reference to a Lodz-based football club Widzew (combination of words: *'Zyd'* – Jew and *'Widzew'* – translation's note). This insult is popular among hooligans and it propagates anti-Jewish sentiments. The host of the broadcast, Pawel Paczul, did not react to Szamotulski's words.

BIALOWIEZA. On the night of 5/6 October, uniformed officers mocked a refugee who, while trying to get over a wall on the Polish-Belarusian border, had hooked his leg on a razor wire and was hanging head down. Without any assistance, he fell from a height of 5.5 metres. The soldiers laughed at him, recorded the incident, and published the video on the internet. It triggered many racist comments. Members of Podlaskie Ochotnicze Pogotowie Humanitarne (Podlaskie Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Organisation which provides assistance to immigrants in border zones) submitted a notice to the Bialystok-North District Public Prosecutor's Office about the suspected offence of failing to provide assistance to a person who was in direct danger of losing their life or health committed by public officers. Piotr Czaban, a journalist and social activist who informed the public about the incident, stated, *'A man falls, no one helped him, this fall could have been cushioned. It was a disgraceful behaviour, there was swearing, laughter, and then the photo taken by these officers leaked out, it was passed on and it appeared on one of the websites'*. On 6 October, a photograph showing a refugee on a wall entangled in a wire was published by the **Podlaskie24.pl** local portal and described as *'A bat from Podlasie [region]'*. Internet users published many contemptuous, racist posts, such as *'Batman from Podlasie'*, *'African bat'* or *'There are no P*ki bats in Podlasie'*.

WARSAW. On 6 October, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, **Jan Bodakowski** repeated false comments about refugees on the Polish-Belarusian border. He presented these people as a threat, describing them as *'Islamic immigrants who want to introduce Shariah laws and destabilise the situation in our country'*. He repeated these words later on in a broadcast, when talking about *'how harmful Islamic immigration is, how we cannot allow Islamic immigrants to come to Poland, [...] they want to bring in Islam and Shariah. In their own country they took away women's rights and gave them the status of farm animals and they want to do the same in our country'*. The next day Jan Bodakowski made similar Islamophobic comments. Among other things, he argued that *'immigrant gangs [...] murder people and sow terror in peaceful Sweden'*.

RZESZOW. On 8 October, during the second division football match between **Resovia Rzeszow** and Ruch Chorzow, local hooligan supporters displayed a banner bearing the words '*Blood and honour*'. The words were the **Hitlerjugend** motto.

WARSAW. On 10 October, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube appeared a video with **Wojciech Sumlinski**, the director of the film '**Return to Jedwabne**' as the invited guest. In the programme Sumlinski repeatedly referred to the myth of '*Judeo-communism*'. He used this expression many times when speaking on the main theme of the programme – the death of Jerzy Urban (1933-2022, a commentator and politician, from 1981 to 1989 he was the Press Secretary of the Communist government under the Polish People's Republic): '*He was the worst example of Judeo-communism. [...] He was a Jew who hated Poland*' and '*The most hypocritical, the most mean, evil face of Judeo-communism is no one but Jerzy Urban*'. Hurling these same invectives, he went on to speak about prof. Jan Hartman (a philosopher and journalist known as having a left-wing views), as well as about Adam Michnik (a former dissident, public intellectual, the editor-in-chief of the '*Gazeta Wyborcza*' liberal daily): '*To me this Jew Hartman, a mean, deceitful Jew [...] those Michniks, this whole Judeo-communism society is none other than a group which protects their own kin*'. In his tirade, he also mentioned '*the Jews from «Wyborcza»*' (the extremist right movement has been using antisemitic hate rhetoric for many years against the editorial staff of '*Gazeta Wyborcza*').

WARSAW. On 13 October, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, **Jan Bodakowski** promoted a conspiracy theory depicting refugees on the border of Belarus as terrorists, referring to '*the operation of transferring Islamic immigrants, often terrorists and criminals, across the Polish-Belarusian border*'. Then, he commented in an antisemitic way about the alleged attacks on John Paul II: '*Today this hatred of John Paul II, defilement of him, is just an element. [...] We are dealing with a constant campaign of defamation of the Catholic Church. This campaign is carried out by anti-clerical, masonic, left-wing, pseudo-liberal and post-communist centres, supported by Jewish circles – international financiers that put a lot of money into this*'.

WARSAW. On 13 October, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, **Tadeusz Matuszyk** (in the 1980s an activist of the so-called 'true Poles' faction in the Solidarity movement) repeatedly recalled the myth of '*Judeo-communism*', according to which the Jews are carriers of hostile, subversive ideology and strive to rule the world. Commenting on Jerzy Urban's funeral (1933-2022, a commentator and politician, from 1981 to 1989 he was the Press Secretary of the Communist government under the Polish People's Republic), Matuszyk said: '*The entire Judeo-communism was shown there. The Judeo-communism live forever and they harm Poland and Poles*'. He continued: '*For over a thousand years, the majority of the Jews have been, are and will be mortal enemies of the Polish nation and state. [...] They squeeze in everywhere. This fifth Judeo-communism column is everywhere. They broke up the Solidarity, whatever Polish we did, there will always be an agent there, there will be this fifth column of the Judeo-communism and they will hurt us*'. Throwing further accusations, he finally declared that '*Judeo-communism*' as '*the worst evil*' – '*that destroyed and destroy Poland*'. Matuszyk developed his conspiratorial vision later in the broadcast, talking about the alleged influence of the Jews on the political situation on a global scale: '*They [the Jews]*

are everywhere. [...] They have structures all over the world. [...] In Brazil, New York, Australia. They are very well organised. This evil is very well organised’.

KIELCE. On 14 October, during the top-flight football match between **Korona Kielce** and Stal Mielec, local hooligan supporters displayed a racist flag containing an inscription ‘*BHBD*’ (an acronym standing for words ‘*Bialy honor, biala duma*’ – ‘*White honour, white pride*’ from the lyrics of a song of a popular neo-Nazi music band **Konkwista 88**: ‘*It was a fight to the end for white honour and blood / For white pride, for the Celtic cross*’). The Kielce supporters also displayed a huge banner in honour of **Brygada Swietokrzyska Narodowych Sil Zbrojnych (Swietokrzyska Brigade of the National Armed Forces)**; it was the only Polish formation that collaborated with the Nazi occupiers during World War II. They murdered members of the left-wing resistance movement and people suspected of being of Jewish origin).

LODZ. On 14 October, a Belarusian student at one of the universities in Lodz provided the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association with information about xenophobic behavior she experienced from a Polish student in public situations. During clinical classes at the university, the man exclaimed to her, ‘*Get the f*ck out to Lukashenka, f*cking Belarusian girl*’. Moreover, in the presence of other students, he intimidated and called her names, including calling her a ‘*cheap Belarusian*’. He also physically abused her. Because of this persecution which lasted several months the woman struggled with health problems that required long-term treatment.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 15 October, during the second division football match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** and Zagłębie Sosnowiec, hooligan supporters of the local club displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. It bore a neo-fascist slogan ‘*Good night left side*’ and a graphic representing a man kicking another man lying on the ground.

OTWOCK. On 16 October, after an amateur football match between Polish and Ukrainian teams one of the players, a Pole, beat up a Ukrainian player from the opposing team. The injured man reported, ‘*After the match I did not want to talk to him, I did not accost him, but he forbade me to look at him. I said that this was a free country, that I was allowed to look wherever I wanted, to which he said that it was not the case for us, Ukrainians. He said to my teammate, «Get the f*ck out, or you’ll also get punched in the face soon»*’. The attacker was becoming more and more aggressive. He told the Ukrainian that he should ‘*get the f*ck out back to his place*’, then repeatedly hit him on the head and kicked him in the stomach. The man fell to the ground. He ended up in a hospital. He had an open head wound and lip wounds, as well as bruises on his body. The police did not classify this incident as a beating of a person prosecuted ex officio.

WARSAW. On 20 October, a broadcast by **Monika Jaruzelska** (Warsaw Councillor and lecturer at the SWPS University) was released on YouTube, in which she spoke with **Wojciech Olszanski** (aka **Aleksander Jablonowski**), sentenced in August 2022 by the District Court in Warsaw-Mokotow to six months in prison for public incitement to the crime of murder. In turn, in September 2022, Olszanski was sentenced by the court to two years of restriction of liberty with an order to perform

community service for publicly insulting people of Jewish nationality. There are also other hate speech proceedings pending against him.

In an interview with Jaruzelska, Olszanski spread anti-Ukrainian conspiracy theories and even questioned the fact that there was a war going on against Ukraine. He declared, *'The war in Ukraine is a very strange war, and actually it is not a war'*. He also reproduced the constant theme of anti-Ukrainian propaganda by presenting the refugees as a biological threat: *'These few millions of Ukrainians can bring us some kind of infection'*. He talked about the so-called Ukrainisation and suggested that it was the Ukrainians who deliberately started the war in order to appropriate Poland, *'When the war broke out on 26 February [sic!], thousands of Ukrainian flags were flying in Polish offices. We know that these flags have been sewn since 2019. The Ukrainisation of Poland is a fact, it's economic, propaganda, political'*. Olszanski also fuelled the aversion towards refugees from Ukraine in this way: *'As a nationalist, as a Pole I protest, Poles are being abandoned in danger of poverty and war, and you're helping another nation, which is more and more demanding'*. He warned against the Ukrainians with the following vision: *'Bandera's agents will come here [Stepan Bandera was the leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists**, which led an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in Volhynia during 1943-44; in practice, 'Bandera' is an ethnic slur frequently used against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator's note] [...] and they will create structures based on the Ukrainian population, which in 1947 in the Vistula Operation was moved to Masuria, Pomerania and Lower Silesia. These people never got rid of the Polish complex, the vast majority grew up among us, lived among us, we cannot tell them apart, because they speak Polish, went to Polish schools, but they allow themselves to articulate anti-Polish opinions more and more boldly. [...] there are instructions that Poles will be locked up for possession of drugs, and Ukrainians won't, they will be released [Jaruzelska nodded – ed.]. This is the Ukrainization of the state'*.

During the interview, Jaruzelska referred to the following statement by Olszanski, *'You said: if I found out that my son was a f*g, I would kill him'*, and in response, her interlocutor eagerly assured, *'I told the truth, I am not denying even one word. [...] I said it fully consciously. [...] Consequences of allowing homosexualisation of our society [go far]'*. (As it turned out during the conversation, Olszanski has two sons with whom he never kept in touch).

During the broadcast, Olszanski also expressed his support for **Eligiusz Niewiadomski**, a fanatical nationalist who in 1922 shot and killed the first president of Poland, Gabriel Narutowicz. This is what he said about the killer: *'He sacrificed himself because he knew what Narutowicz's presidency would lead to'* (50 min.). Jaruzelska, the daughter of the former Polish president, did not object.

ROKITKI. On 22 October, during a district football match (Legnica group) between **Czarni Rokitki** – KS Legnickie Pole, hooligans of the local team shouted racist insults at the opposing player, Martins Ekwueme from Nigeria. They chanted: *'N*gger', 'Get the f*ck out to Africa', 'Bamboo' and 'N*gro'*. The footballer reported the behaviour of the hooligans to the referee **Lukasz Wozny**, but in response he heard, *'Don't talk, just play. This is not the top flight'*. When Ekwueme in response to insults called the shouting people *'peasants'*, the referee... showed him the second yellow card and consequently a red card and sent him off the field. During the match, the President of the club from Rokitki intervened, approached the hooligans and enforced a change in their behaviour, and after the first half he went to the locker room and apologized to Martins Ekwueme. On 24 October, a statement from Czarni Rokitki was published on Facebook, in which the incidents on the pitch were

condemned, and expressions of solidarity were conveyed to the footballer, *'The community of our Club are those who respect and appreciate you. We express hope and confidence that you will play on the pitch in Rokitki again, you were and are welcome with us'*.

Martins Ekwueme has been living in Poland for 23 years. In 2016, he obtained Polish citizenship. On 25 October, the Disciplinary Committee of the Legnica Subdistrict of the Lower Silesian Football Association, in connection with racist incidents during the match, punished the club from Rokitki with closing the facility for fans until the end of the round (i.e. for two matches).

WARSAW. On 26 October, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, **Jan Bodakowski** recommended a transphobic article entitled 'Imposed depravity' published in the far-right daily **'Nasz Dziennik' ('Our Daily')** (No. 249), that commented on the US State Department's support for the LGBTQI+ community in Ecuador. Bodakowski approvingly quoted absurd excerpts from this text: *'Joe Biden's regime in the United States is wasting American taxpayers' money on the moral corruption of Ecuadorians. [...] Men dressed in licentious clothes, pretending to be women, are going to be promoting gender diversity among Ecuadorians. [...] This pathological gender narrative is used to familiarise the youngest with degenerate or deviant behaviour so that such deviations are perceived as normal'*. The host also added from himself: *'What is called a sex change is nothing but a gross mutilation of people, cutting off their penises, cutting out their wombs, giving children hormones so that they cannot develop, and crippling them for life'*.

WARSAW. On 28 October in a programme bearing the title '[...] Friday of Rainbow pathology', aired by the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, the host **Jan Bodakowski** voiced a number of contemptuous homophobic and transphobic statements, among these: *'Are persons who have delusions that they are women while they possess penises to be recognised as women?'* Speaking on the subject of the Rainbow Friday initiative (this is an action to promote support for the LGBT community, organised in Polish schools) Bodakowski commented: *'Children will be demoralised and taught stupidities by so-called sex educators who try to persuade them that homosexual relations are something safe for their health and normal. And normal they are but normal in the same sense as influenza or some other diseases'*.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 29 October, during the second division football match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala** and Sandecja Nowy Sacz, hooligan fans of the hosting team displayed a banner inciting ideologically motivated violence. It bore a slogan *'Good night left side'*, used by neo-fascist groups, and a characteristic graphic illustrating a man kicking a man lying on the ground.

LUBAN. On 29 October, Zdzislaw Bykowski, a social activist, co-organiser and member of the Polish anti-Communist movement Solidarnosc (Solidarity), addressed the authorities of Luban in an open letter regarding antisemitic slogans and symbols that have been visible in public spaces for many years. Z. Bykowski described his own efforts to remove them, *'Almost 20 years ago [in 2003 - ed.] dozens of disgraceful inscriptions appeared on Luban pavements and streets: «USA + Star of David + swastika». No one officially reacted, law enforcement authorities were passive. I have been raising it with Luban leaders, I gave an interview in Studio S at TV Luban, I wrote a text about the incidents for a local newspaper. No reaction. I painted over most of the graffiti myself, two were removed by*

the Primary School on Kopernika Street, and a few were removed – at my request – by the housing association and Municipal Services, thank you! Quite a few remained. In later years, almost all of them disappeared after the pavements were replaced with half-paving and new asphalt was laid on the roadways. Until recently there were two: on the pavement next to the marketplace and on Staszica Street. I painted them over on 13 September 2022. Z. Bykowski also informed the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association about the situation.

POLAND. On 29 October and in the days following a critical statement by Joanna Ochojska, a Member of the European Parliament and the President of the Polish Humanitarian Action (a non-governmental organisation which has been providing assistance to civilians suffering as a result of the armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters in several dozen countries worldwide), on the treatment of refugees on the Polish-Belarusian border (Ochojska said, among other things: *‘It is a shame for us, Poles, that in the name of Christian values we agree to death of people in a Polish forest’*), numerous hateful comments against her appeared on the Internet, containing racist insults and wishes for her death. Here are some examples from Twitter:

- *‘Ochojska is the pathology of TT. Crippled, she will arouse pity and embarrassment, spit out nonsense, hoping for immunity. A classical case for psychiatry, treatment of insecurities through aggression’*,

- *‘Ochojska, you Russian prostitute, how long will you support the attacks on the Polish border’*,

- *‘Ochojska, get the f*ck out into Ukraine. The pianist comedian needs people like you’* [‘into Ukraine’ (~‘Wukrainie’) is a deliberate exaggeration suggesting contempt for accepting the use of prepositions that are not traditionally used in Polish in this phrase, but are regarded less patronising towards Ukrainians and are actively endorsed by many Ukrainians in Poland; ‘pianist comedian’ refers to the profession previously performed by President V. Zelensky – translator’s note],

- *‘Mrs. Ochojska hates Poland as an independent state and, therefore, hates all institutions that represent this Polishness’*,

- *‘What religion is this «Polish» MEP Ochojska, that she so openly and passionately hates Poles and Christianity?’*

- *‘And this c*nt Ochojska writes complaints about the Republic of Poland.. PL will never be sovereign as long as there are no punishments for traitors’*

- *‘When will Ochojska, this leftist pest, join Urban?’* [written a few weeks after the death of Jerzy Urban – responsible for state propaganda in the communist 1980s – ed.]

- *‘I hope soon no more... she doesn’t know what she’s raving about’* [written by another Twitter user in response to a previous post – ed.].

LUBLIN. At the end of October, information was published on Facebook about anti-Ukrainian leaflets that appeared on the streets of the city. They contained the following call: *‘Poles! It is time to unite and show your power! The lawlessness of the so-called refugees from Ukraine cannot be tolerated! The government and the police are hiding numerous crimes committed by the banderites from public opinion* [referring to **Stepan Bandera**, who was the leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN)**, organisation which collaborated with Nazi Germany. The OUN led an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in Volhynia during 1943-44. In practice, the term ‘Bandera’ is frequently used in Poland today as an ethnic slur against all Ukrainians – translator’s

note]. *The scum are taking advantage of the situation!*' The leaflets were signed by so-called **Pierwszy Batalion Narodowy (First National Battalion)**, an informal group).

NOVEMBER 2022

BELCHATOW. A November edition of a stadium hooligans' magazine *'To My Kibice' ('It's Us Fans')* published an article about fans of **Sparta Augustow** football club. The article was illustrated with photographs taken during matches of this team. Several of the photographs presented banners in colours of the Third Reich's emblem, with a Celtic cross (a symbol of the so-called *'white power'*) in the middle instead of a swastika.

WARSAW. On 4 November the YouTube channel **Media Narodowe (National Media)**, the anchor **Jan Bodakowski** condemned the basic tenets of ecumenism which promote dialogue and understanding among representatives of different faiths (the decree about ecumenism was accepted by the Second Vatican Council, in session from 1962 to 1965. This Council is recognised as the most important event in the history of Catholicism in the 20th century. It brought dialogue with other religions and faiths). Discussing the article by Franciszek Kucharczak published in the *'Gosc Niedzielny' ('Your Sunday Guest')* Catholic weekly (No. 44/2022), which pertained to joint prayers by representatives of different faiths, Bodakowski expressed regrets that *'unfortunately, the author is a very post-Council person, so he defends this kind of practice which is pathological. In no situation should we pray with people of other religions, because their prayer is blasphemous'*. He moreover criticised the publication in this same weekly of an interview with the Director of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., stating that it is such a *'next symptom of philo-Semitism in Catholic newspapers, quite different to what was typical before World War II. For that reason, pre-war Catholic newspapers, to be very candid, appeal to me much more, because not only were they in the pre-Council tone [the Second Vatican Council freed the Jews from collective responsibility for Christ's death – translator's note] and traditionally Catholic, they also represented the correct approach to Polish-Jewish relations [the interwar Catholic press regarded the Jews as enemies of Poland and of the Church – translator's note]'*.

RADOMSKO. On 5 November, football hooligan supporters of **GKS Belchatow** held a picket with



an antisemitic banner outside the stadium of RKS Radomsko team. It read: *'Die Jewish slaves'*. This was how the 'fans' from Belchatow manifested their contempt and hostility towards the club

from Radomsko. They carried out this action in connection with the upcoming derby match between the two teams (scheduled on 13 November). Among football hooligan supporters, antisemitic slurs are considered the most offensive.

ODRZYKON. On 6 November, during the match of the district football division (Krosno group) **Zamczysko Odrzykon** – MKS Arlamow Ustrzyki Dolne, the hooligans of the local team chanted

slogans with racist and anti-Ukrainian content. Football players from Ustrzyki: Hanson Kumah-Doe (from Ghana), Duvan Martinez (from Colombia), Oleg Moskalets and Vladyslav Valihura (both from Ukraine) were addressed by the supporters of Zamczysko: *'N*ggers', 'Makumba'* [misreference to a popular Polish song mocking Polish racism – translator's note], *'Black Mamba', 'Shoshones', 'FC Ukraine'* and *'Get the f*ck back to Donetsk [city in Ukraine]'*. The incidents at the stadium were condemned, among others, by Piotr Kowalski, the coach of the team from Ustrzyki Dolne, *'We cannot be indifferent to such behaviour. Then the game takes a back seat. The offended players [...] are members of our club, friends, colleagues, and above all people. Racist slurs and insults have no right to appear on the pitch at any level of competition'*. Bartosz Romowicz, the Mayor of Ustrzyki Dolne, together with the President of the MKS Arlamow club Kamil Golabek announced that they would submit a notice to the local and national football authorities. No information has been made public as to whether any official steps in the case have been taken.

NIEPOLOMICE. On 9 November, during the 1/8 Polish Cup football match between Sandecja Nowy Sacz and **Slask Wroclaw**, there were racist incidents involving football hooligans of the visiting team. The match ended in a draw and the result was to be decided by penalty kicks. When it was the turn of Sandecja's footballer, Maissa El Hadji Fall, the fans of Slask seated behind the goal imitated the sounds of monkeys. Before the penalty kick was taken, the player drew the attention of the referee **Sebastian Jarzebak** to their offensive behaviour, but the referee did not react. In protest, Fall left the field, and with him, in a gesture of solidarity, his teammates resigned from further play and also left the field.

On 10 November, the board of Sandecja issued a statement: *'In the absence of a reaction from the referee, our players made the only right decision [to leave the field – translator's note]. The board of the club, regardless of the consequences, stands in solidarity with this attitude! Sport means fair competition, rivalry and moral principles. We do not agree to any kind of terrorism against a participant in the competition. He is part of our team and insulting him means insulting the club and its supporters. Sport is supposed to unite, not divide! Racism and corruption are phenomena that are destroying football. [...] We appeal to the Disciplinary Committee of the Polish Football Association for a decisive reaction!'*

On 17 November, the Disciplinary Committee of the Polish Football Association decided to punish the Sandecja club for leaving the field and settled the match as a forfeit in favour of Slask. Additionally the Committee imposed a fine of PLN 190 000 on the club from Wroclaw for the racist behaviour of their fans. The fans were prohibited from following their club in the Polish Cup matches for 6 months.

On 12 November, the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** website published an article by **Jan Bodakowski** (editor of Media Narodowe YouTube channel), with comments mocking racist incidents during the match between Sandecja Nowy Sacz and Slask Wroclaw. Bodakowski claimed that the behaviour of Slask fans against the Sandecja footballer Maissa El Hadji Fall from Senegal was in no way offensive. In a text entitled *'Have You Lost? Turn yourself into a victim of racism and the result will be reversed. A patent from Polish stadiums'*, he wrote: *'In the event of losing the game, why not turn yourself into a victim of racism to change the result. [...] But what if you are a white*

player? Then you most probably need to say that you are in fact a trans-Africo-Pole who may look white but deep down feels he is a Senegalese immigrant’.

WARSAW. On 10 November, on the day preceding the so-called Independence March, far-right manifestation organised by the **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci (March of Independence Association)** led by **Robert Bakiewicz**, the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel owned by him carried a conversation with **Przemyslaw Holoher** (former leader of the far-right **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny – National-Radical Camp**), on the subject of reprinting by his publishing house **Magna Polonia** of the book **‘Jews and Cahals’** by **Iakov Aleksandrovich Brafman** (the first edition appeared in the second half of the 19th century). This author is regarded as the creator of modern antisemitism in Russia which manifested itself by a wave of pogroms against the Jews. The introduction to this book was written by another ideologue of antisemitism, **Teodor Jeske-Choinski** who stated: *‘The Jew has been and is to this day a staunch enemy of the Cross, Christianity and its believers. And knowledge of the enemy, his strength and means, is half of the victory’*. In the course of the conversation, Holoher expressed support for the contents of the book by Brafman: *‘Earlier people thought that this Jewish trend to such stubbornness, recognition of themselves being a chosen nation is connected only and solely with religious superstition, with fanaticism, with the Talmud, and, what also came out, there is something else, there is the Cahal [Jewish community – translator’s note], [...] which is something like the structure of the mafia. And for that reason, there is the cover, suggestive of the famous film «The Godfather», because all this connected in my mind with the mafia’* (the cover of the book printed by the Magna Polonia publishing house shows a caricature drawing of a Jew, holding a golden calf). The conversation carried on by **Michal Murgrabia**, contained many antisemitic conspiracy theories. Holoher suggested, among others, that it was the Jews who plotted to kill the Tsar Nicholas II Romanov (murdered along with the entire family by the Bolsheviks in 1918). After voicing these revelations, he encouraged listeners to get to know this book: *‘It’s worth reading it and not to allow to be told that if we reveal these types of hateful behaviour, and racist practices, we are antisemites. It’s those people who committed such acts, those Talmudic Jews [...] they are the ones who should explain their doings and be ashamed’*.

WARSAW. On 11 November, during the Polish Independence Day, a so-called Independence March organised by **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci (March of Independence Association)** led by **Robert Bakiewicz** passed through the streets of the capital city. Participants of the demonstration were shouting insults towards minority groups and were waving flags promoting hatred.

Grzegorz Braun, a member of **Konfederacja Korony Polskiej (Confederation of the Polish Crown party)**, took part in the march. His supporters carried banners with a slogan *‘Stop the Ukrainisation of Poland’*. In addition, one of the flags bore a crossed-out map of Poland in Ukrainian colours and the word *‘Ukropol’* marked with a ban sign (‘Ukro’ – stands for Ukraine, ‘pol’ for Poland). Since mid-July 2022, Konfederacja has been conducting a campaign entitled *‘Stop Ukrainisation of Poland’*, aiming – according to conspiracy theories spread by its supporters – to stop *‘the process of Ukrainisation of Poland, transforming it into a hybrid state – Ukraino-Polonia’*. Furthermore, participants in this so-called Independence March used or displayed the following:

- flags with the Slavic swastika (symbol used by the far right and by groups supporting the war against Ukraine, as well as by Russian neo-Nazi groups involved in fighting against Ukraine),
- Celtic cross banners (international racist sign),
- American **Confederate** flags (international racist symbol that expresses support for the supremacy of the so-called white race. The flag was used during the US Civil War by supporters of slavery. Nowadays, it is used by racist groups and is therefore removed from public spaces),
- a banner with the slogan '*White Lives Matter*', a mockery and opposition to the global anti-racism action Black Lives Matter,
- banners with the so-called Black Sun (a Nazi symbol used in the Third Reich),
- banners bearing the so-called wolf hook (Wolfsangel, the symbol of an **SS** division),
- the banner of the far-right **Autonomiczni Nacjonalisci (Autonomous Nationalists)** group which showed a broom sweeping 'rubbish' from the floor – a Star of David among them,
- a banner with an Islamophobic content which displayed '*Mohammed not welcome*' together with a stereotypical image of a Muslim,
- a banner with the '*LGBT*' acronym crossed out and... a crossed-out swastika, which was intended to abusively equate sexual minorities with Nazi ideology,
- flags with the '*LGBT*' acronym crossed-out resembling a prohibition sign.

In addition, the participants in this so-called Independence March chanted xenophobic slogans ('*Poland only for Poles*'), racist slogans ('*Blood, land, white race*'), and called for ideologically motivated violence ('*Death to the enemies of the motherland*'). They also burned flags of the European Union, a flag of transgender people (while performing the chant '*Paedophiles, lesbians, gays, the whole of Poland laughs at you*') and of the Women's Strike [in the years 2020–2021 Women's Strike protests were demonstrations against tightening the law on abortion in Poland, which made almost all cases of abortion illegal – translator's note].

Representatives of **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)** encouraged demonstrators to wipe their 'dirty shoes' on the flag of the LGBT community and the flag of the European Union, lying on the ground in front of them.

During the so-called Independence March a woman was attacked as she displayed a banner reading '*Fascism stop*' next to Polish, EU, and LGBT flags to protest against the gathering. The demonstrators shouted to her, '*F*ck off with that rag!*', while two men snatched the banners from her. The aggressors were separated from the woman by Robert Bakiewicz's so-called **Straz Marszu Niepodleglosci (Independence March Security Guards)**, a far-right paramilitary organisation co-financed by the state.

During the Independence Day demonstration a reporter from '*Gazeta Wyborcza*' liberal daily witnessed a racist incident aimed at a man with dark complexion. He described the incident as follows: '*A tourist from the Middle East, apparently fascinated by the immensity of the red and white flags, started filming them with his smartphone. He did not manage to record much. Just a moment later, he was approached by a burly man who told him to get the f*ck out of there*'.

The so-called Independence March was attended by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General **Zbigniew Ziobro**, as well as other **Solidarna Polska (United Poland)** party politicians known for their offensive statements against minorities: Deputy Minister of Agriculture **Janusz Kowalski** and Members of European Parliament **Patryk Jaki** and **Dominik Tarczynski**.

Even though the participants of the march demonstrated racist and fascist symbols and repeated slogans promoting hatred, the Warsaw authorities did not dismiss the gathering. Mariusz Ciarka, the spokesman for the Police Chief Inspector stated at a press conference that the Independence Day celebrations *'proceeded remarkably peacefully'*.

WROCLAW. On 11 November, on the Polish Independence Day, a march organised by **Jacek Miedlar**, a former priest and activist of the extreme right, passed through the streets of the city. In 2021 Miedlar was sentenced by court for insulting and inciting hatred against people of Jewish and Ukrainian nationality on the basis of national differences. He promoted this demonstration on the internet using the slogan *'Stop the Ukrainisation of Poland'* (a conspiracy theory according to which the Ukrainians would take over Poland). On his way to the march, he was detained by the police for several hours. Lukasz Dutkowiak, the spokesman for the Provincial Police Headquarters in Wroclaw, informed that Miedlar was detained on the basis of the provisions of the Police Act according to which law enforcement authorities have the right to *'detain people who obviously pose a direct threat to human life or health, as well as to property'*.

The march was attended, among others, by representatives of **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (National Rebirth of Poland)**, **Konfederacja Korony Polskiej (Confederation of the Polish Crown)**, a far-right party headed by the Member of Parliament **Grzegorz Braun**, and football hooligans of **Slask Wroclaw**. The demonstrators chanted anti-Ukrainian and antisemitic slogans, and also displayed banners with such content. Among other things, they shouted, *'This is Poland, not Polin'* (*'Polin'* in Hebrew means Poland; it is a slogan referring to a conspiracy theory according to which Jews would seek to seize Poland). At the head of the march they carried a large banner with the slogan *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'* (inciting to ideologically motivated violence) and another one with the sign of the Celtic cross (symbolising the so-called *'white power'*). In addition, the demonstrators displayed a banner of **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) containing the slogan *'Stop the Ukrainisation of Poland'* and the term *'Ukropol'* with an image including a crossed-out map of Poland in the colours of Ukraine. Some of the marchers also wore clothes with the Slavic swastika symbol, used, among others, by Russian neo-Nazi groups fighting in the war against Ukraine.

During the demonstration, a speech was given by the co-organiser of this assembly **Katarzyna Sokolowska** from **Fundacja Wolyn Pamietamy [Volhynia Remembered Foundation** – its name refers to the Volhynia crimes of 1943-1945 involving the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (UPA)** and is used to encourage hatred against Ukrainians today – translator's note]. She expressed *'opposition to the substitution of nationality that has been taking place in Poland for several years'*, and then developed this xenophobic conspiracy theory as follows: *'Ukrainisation of Poland is proceeding at an exponential pace at the moment. [...] The conflict in the East has made it possible that those who, a few years ago, told us about the Ukrainian elites that would rule Poland, implement their plan without any obstacles. [...] I accuse not only the people in power, but also the majority of Poles of Ukrainisation of our homeland. They gave Poland up without a single shot, they allowed public space to be Ukrainised, foreign flags to be hung in offices, in the Parliament'*. **Piotr Korczarowski**, creator of the far-right **eMisjaTv** channel on YouTube, spoke in a similar tone. Referring to the flood in Wroclaw in 1997 he declared, *'Today, the whole of Poland is flooded by*

various other waves. They told us there were supposedly waves of COVID, now we have a real Ukrainian deluge'. The city authorities did not dissolve this assembly.

BELCHATOW. On 12 November, during the second division football match between Skra Czestochowa and **Ruch Chorzow**, the hooligans of the visiting team displayed a huge banner on the fence surrounding the football pitch containing the words 'White race' (one of the most popular racist slogans used by extreme-right groups worldwide). The display of such a flag in the stands



was condemned by journalist Szymon Jadczyk who tweeted the content of the slogan and a picture of the banner. His post was responded to by the head of the Family Sector at Ruch Chorzow stadium **Szymon Michalek** who... approvingly referred to the inscription on the flag, 'Don't white supporters have the right to claim that they are white? I think they do. If someone is outraged by this fact, then political correctness has got into him too much'.

In a press interview, Ruch Chairman **Seweryn Siemianowski** also spoke favourably about the banner displayed by his club, 'As for the content of the banner, I think that everyone can interpret it in their own way. For me it is not explicitly racist content'. On 17 January 2023, related to a flag displayed during the match against Skra, the Disciplinary Committee of the Polish Football Association (PZPN) punished Ruch Chorzow by banning organised groups of their fans from travelling for six months.

RZESZOW. On 13 November, during the second division football match between **Resovia Rzeszow** and Zaglebie Sosnowiec, hooligan supporters of the local club displayed a distinctive red and white banner resembling a logo of the international neo-Nazi organisation **Blood and Honour**. Its name was taken from the **Hitlerjugend** motto 'Blut und Ehre' ('Blood and Honour').

WARSAW. On 13 November, the guest of the programme aired by the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube was **Wojciech Sumlinski**, extreme right-wing propagandist, known for voicing antisemitic slogans. In the course of the conversation about the Independence Day celebrations, answering the question posed by host **Michal Jelonek**: 'Are we [Poland] really sovereign?', Sumlinski went off voicing conspiracy theories about alleged Jewish influence: 'We are moving from the Germano-Russian option to the American-Jewish one' and 'We are ruled by cowardly people [who] are sold to the American-Jewish option'. In a later part of the programme, he propagated further conspiracy theories - about the so-called Jewish claims against Poland: 'Our situation has to be made so difficult that we will be forced to pay out this multi-billion tribute which is expected of us by Israel and the Jews, Jewish organisations, and if we are unable to pay it in money

we will have to pay in land and ownership transformations – so our international situation has to be so difficult that we would have to consider that as a lesser evil’.

WARSAW. In the second half of November, at the Brodnowski Hospital Emergency Department, a doctor on duty made xenophobic comments towards a patient from Lebanon. When the man with severe abdominal pain tried to communicate with the doctor in English, he was told, *‘You live in Poland and you have to speak Polish’*. The doctor also asked him where he was from and when he heard the answer, he replied, *‘Go back to Lebanon then’*. The patient decided to leave the hospital. A few days later, on 23 November, he was taken to the Southern Hospital in Ursynow, where he underwent surgery for an acute appendicitis. In a press interview, the spokesman for the Brodnowski Hospital stated that *‘according to the information from the doctor, the patient was not offended or treated inappropriately’*. Commenting on the incident, the Lebanese man said bitterly, *‘I have been living in Poland for a year. I have been studying and recently I have also been working here. This is the first time I have encountered a situation where I was told to «Go back to Lebanon»’*.

WARSAW. On 15 November, in a programme aired on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, the host **Michal Jelonek** spoke with **Robert Bakiewicz**, the leader of the **Stowarzyszenie Marsz Niepodleglosci (March of Independence Association)** and chief organiser of the so-called Independence March (huge far-right manifestation) which took place on 11 November in Warsaw. Answering a question about the *‘overtone’* of the march, as reported in Israeli media, especially in a critical commentary which appeared on Twitter of one of the television channels, Bakiewicz presented a vision of conspiracy, according to which Jews were supposed to act to Poland’s detriment. He said: *‘Such is also the policy of Jewish organisations or, to put it more broadly, of the Jews – or even of the state of Israel – whose efforts are directed towards keeping Poland weak on the international stage’*.

WARSAW. On 15 November, in a programme transmitted on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, the host **Jan Bodakowski** duplicated stereotypes and conspiracy theories concerning Muslims. Commenting an article about repressions enforced in Iran against persons protesting the death of Masha Amini (an Iranian woman of Kurdish descent who was arrested by the religious guard police and died as result of beating) Bodakowski stated: *‘Please bear in mind that these are the types of islamist methods by which islamists want to organise Europe for us. They want to introduce Shariah law and for that reason we must use all our efforts to ban islamist migration to our country’*.

POLAND. On 17 November, **Piotr Stanislaw Wielgucki**, a blogger known as **Matka Kurka**, published a comment on Twitter in which he approved of the ongoing war against Ukraine and questioned the national identity of Ukrainians. Wielgucki wrote, *‘I give the same amount of damn about the Ukrainian tragedy as Ukrainians do about Poland. Let the Russian tribes fight each other for eternity, for us it is a gift from heaven’*. Wielgucki is known to have vilified Jerzy Owskiak and Wielka Orkiestra Swiatecznej Pomocy for years [Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity – the biggest non-governmental charity organisation in Poland founded by Owskiak. It aims to support health care

in Poland by purchasing state-of-the-art medical equipment for Polish hospitals and clinics. It is the most-trusted Polish organisation – translator’s note].

POLAND. On 18 December and in following days, a number of racist comments were published on the internet in connection with the World Cup final match between Argentina and France. Their authors questioned the French national identity of dark-skinned footballers and their right to play for the country’s national team. Some posts additionally carried Islamophobic undertones. Here are examples of comments posted on Twitter (original spelling): *‘I supported Argentina because they are white. Just like that’, ‘France is gone. If it wasn’t for the n*gros, they wouldn’t have become champions in 98 or 4 years ago. And this year they would not have reached the final. It is ridiculous that practically 100% of the squad of a European country is Africa’, ‘They were totally in shit today. But it’s true that n*gros are only fit to pick bananas’, ‘Take a look at what Mbappe looks like and compare it to a typical Frenchman. Conclusions are obvious’ and ‘Well, the Christians have won against the Muslims. Only in football, but it’s something’.*

One internet user protested against these racist comments, *‘Kilian Mbappe was born and raised in France. Talking about him not being French is absurd’.* The following responses appeared under his post: *‘But he’s a n*gro’, ‘He is a n*gro, that already tells you who this quasi-Frenchman of yours is’, ‘Of course he is not. He only has the nationality. Genes can’t be fooled’ and ‘In fact, genetically he’s not French!’*

Tomasz Grabarczyk, high-ranking member of **Konfederacja (Confederation)**, far-right party), praised on Twitter... the fact that Nazi criminals had found a refuge in Argentina after World War II: *‘However, instead of a country that collaborated with Germans, I prefer a country that welcomed them after the war. Vamos Argentina!’*

POLISH-BELARUSIAN BORDER. On 19 November, Fundacja Ocalenie (Rescue Foundation) which provides humanitarian aid to refugees and migrants in the border forests [since August 2021 groups of migrants and refugees have been trying to cross the Polish border but have been kept in the forests in disastrous conditions, and watched over by Polish and Belarusian Guards, on both sides – translator’s note] announced on Facebook that organisation’s property had been devastated. *‘Unknown perpetrators’* punctured two tyres in the car used by the activists to intervene in border areas. The post on this subject received comments expressing support for the perpetrators of the devastation, as well as false accusations in which the Foundation’s aid activities were described as *‘people smuggling’.*

KRAKOW. On 21 November, at the International Cultural Centre, representatives of **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)** prevented a meeting with the Prominent Ukrainian writer Oksana Zabuzhko, recent winner of the Stanislaw Vincenz Prize of the City Council of Krakow, from taking place. They shouted at her, *‘Bandera go back to the river Don!’* and *‘Stop the banderisation!’* (these slogans are an example of how the far right use the Volhynian crime of 1943-1945 to incite hatred against modern Ukrainians). Members of Młodzież Wszechpolska behaved aggressively, booed loudly, and didn’t let Zabuzhko speak. The police were called. The organisers decided to end

the meeting. In an interview for a Presserwis website, Vyacheslav Wojnarovsky, Consul General of Ukraine in Krakow, reported that the demonstrators were also abusive towards a Ukrainian diplomat present during the meeting. A statement regarding the incident was issued by the Polish PEN Club (distinguished cultural association): *'The aggressive far-right militias that [...] led to the breaking off of the meeting with Oksana Zabuzhko remind us of the worst tradition of **ONR-Falanga (Falanga National Radical Camp)** of the interwar period [a Polish fascist organisation active before World War II – translator's note]. The Polish PEN Club condemns this brutal attack, which is an unacceptable act of violation of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly'*. The following day, the writer referred to the protests aimed against her, *'Russia does not like the escalation of the Polish-Ukrainian agreement that we are seeing after 24 February. I have no doubt that more similar provocations await us in the nearest future. We know something about this in Ukraine'*. Zabuzhko is a Ukrainian writer, poet, and essayist. Her work explores themes related to self-identification of Ukrainians, issues of post-colonialism, and feminism.

Marcin Rola, founder of the far-right online TV channel **wRealu24** (deleted by YouTube in 2022), congratulated the aggressive demonstrators, *'A big round of applause goes to the girls and boys from Młodzież Wszechpolska for this beautiful action they took today by blocking a meeting in Krakow with a pro-Bandera writer named Oksana Zabuzko. Only anti-Polish traitors and real scum can promote such people'* (Twitter, 21 November).

In a similar tone, radical right-wing activist and newspaper columnist **Wiktor Gadowski** said, *'We will not allow the victims of murderers to be insulted. We [...] will not allow history to be falsified and Poles to be mocked, madam writer. Please remember this lesson!'* (Twitter, 21 November).

Grzegorz Braun, MP of **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party), also enthusiastically referred to the cancellation of the meeting with Oksana Zabuzhko by **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)** and encouraged such behaviour to be used as example, *'Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Krakow has shown a beautiful pro-Polish attitude. Bravo!! It is worth taking an example. #StopUkrainisationOfPoland'*.

POLAND. On 21 November and in the following days, there were many voices of support for **Janusz Walus**, the racist killer who shot Chris Hani, a South African anti-apartheid leader, in 1993. Walus was sentenced to life imprisonment and never expressed remorse. On 21 November 2022, the South African court decided to release him on parole. Supporters of the extreme right in Poland reacted enthusiastically to this decision. For several years they had been demanding Walus's 'liberation' and praising the murder he had committed. Here are some examples of such statements:

- **Konfederacja (Confederation)** Member of Parliament **Grzegorz Braun**: *'LIVE: South Africa's Constitutional Court takes its decision to RELEASE Mr Janusz Walus from prison [graphic symbols of thumbs up and hearts followed – ed.]. May God be thanked!'* (Twitter, 21 November)
- Konfederacja press conference at the Parliament, **Piotr Heszen**: *'Mr Janusz [Walus] [...], I can't salute you because I don't have a cap with an eagle [the coat of arms of Poland is a white, crowned eagle – translator's note] [...], but I have a badge of **Konfederacja Korony Polskiej [Confederation of the Polish Crown]** with me. I will put my hand close to it [i.e., as if when singing the anthem, on*

the heart – ed.]. *Welcome soldier! And God bless you. [...] For me, you are a soldier. A soldier who aims exactly at the target at which every soldier fighting for Poland or for civilisation should aim his gun*. Grzegorz Braun MP: *‘Personally, I place myself on the side of those who consider the shooting of communist party secretaries as an act that does not necessarily call for punishment, and in some cases, it could be an act of higher necessity’* (23 November, recording published on Braun’s YouTube channel)

- **Oboz Narodowo-Radykalny (National-Radical Camp)**: *‘Janusz Walus gets out of prison!!! [...] We’ve all been waiting for this for many years!’*. An image depicting Walus was added to the post with a slogan *‘We’re waiting for you, brother’* (Twitter, 21 November)

- **Narodowa Alternatywa** (informal **National Alternative** far-right group): *‘It is confirmed – Janusz Walus is released from prison. He killed a red degenerate and was punished worse than for killing a human being. But after years of enslavement and suffering, the hero will finally be able to breathe fresh air’* (Twitter, 21 November)

- **Dariusz Matecki**, head of **Solidarna Polska (Poland United)** party in Western Pomerania, Szczecin Councillor and head of **Osrodek Monitorowania Antypolonizmu (Anti-Polonism Monitoring Centre)**: *‘I believe that Poland should bring back Janusz Walus to the country and take care of him. To compare, if someone shot the Kremlin terrorist Kadyrov today, would he be a hero or a criminal? #FreeWalus’* (Twitter, 29 November; on this day Walus, who was still in prison, was stabbed by another prisoner)

- far-right group **Narodowy Lublin (National Lublin)**: *‘Yesterday Janusz Walus was attacked with a knife by a Black man in prison. JANUSZ WALUS OUR ROLE MODEL!’* (Twitter, 30 November)

- **Krzysztof Lech Luksza**, regular host on a far-right website **BanBye** and on **wRealu24** far-right-online TV (which promotes hate speech; in August 2022 in cooperation with the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association this channel was removed by YouTube): *‘Janusz Walus has been released and this is great news. It’s just a pity that he can’t return to his homeland right away... The Polish authorities should intervene in this case’* (Twitter, 7 December)

- **Lukasz Jasina**, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: *‘The MFA’s support for our citizen, Mr Janusz Walus, is given all the time’* (Twitter, 12 December)

- activists of **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)** in Pomeranian region of Poland sent a written appeal to the Minister of Foreign Affairs *‘to intervene in Janusz Walus’s case and take special care of him on the part of the Republic of Poland’*. They also published the appeal on Facebook with a headline *‘All-Polish Youth Together For the Defence of Janusz Walus!!!’* (10 December)

- Moreover, representatives of Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth) together with the far-right **Ruch Narodowy (National Movement)** organised a gathering in **STAROGARD GDANSKI** on 13 December, during which they presented a banner reading *‘Janusz Walus, stay strong!’*.

Other examples of selected Twitter posts:

- *‘Honour and Glory to the Heroes, Janusz Walus Our Example!’* (30 November)

- *‘Janusz Walus is a hero because he saved many people from death. Whoever got in the way of that communist whom Walus killed, had been murdered’* (8 December),

- *‘Anti-communist, fighting for future of white people in South Africa, killer of red terrorist, racist and criminal responsible for genocide, Chris Hani, freed. Janusz Walus, you’ll be greet as a hero’* [original spelling] (8 December, posted by a Polish user under the BBC article on Walus’s release).

WARSAW. Between 24-27 November, at the Historical Book Fair held at the Royal Castle, under the patronage of the President of Poland and co-organised by Instytut Pamięci Narodowej (the Institute of National Remembrance), one of the official exhibitors was the **3dom** publishing house (based in Czeszochowa) which offers antisemitic and racist books. It publishes and distributes such titles as *'Dangerous Topics'* by **Dariusz Ratajczak** (the author denied the killing of Jews in the gas chambers of Auschwitz, in 2001 the court found him guilty of the so-called Auschwitz lie). The offer of 3dom also included books by **Radosław Patlewicz** entitled *'The Elders of Zion – A New Opening'* (the author promotes anti-Jewish conspiracy theories), or *'The Turner Diaries'* by **Andrew Macdonald** (considered to be the 'bible of racist terrorists'; it was an inspiration for **Timothy McVeigh**, the far-right perpetrator of the April 1995 Oklahoma massacre in which 168 people were killed). The presence of the 3dom publishing house at the book fair was condemned by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association. The American Jewish Committee (its Central Europe office) also protested and issued a statement: *'It is difficult to understand how antisemitic publications can appear at an event organised by such respectable institutions'*. In response to the words of criticism and opposition, the organisers of the Historical Book Fair expressed regret that *'antisemitic publications appeared in the exhibition'* and described the titles of the 3dom publishing house as *'unacceptable'*.

WARSAW. On 30 November, in front of the Romanian Embassy members of **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (NOP, National Rebirth of Poland, far-right party)** commemorated **Corneliu Codreanu** (1899-1938) on the anniversary of his death. Codreanu was the founder of the **Iron Guard**, a fascist group active in Romania between 1927 and 1941. The organisation carried out political murders, pogroms, and murders of Jews. It was part of the fascist pro-German government of **Ion Antonescu**. The NOP website published the following praise of Codreanu: *'The Iron Guard (Legion of Archangel Michael) has become an example inspiring thousands of European nationalists. [...] This year it was already the 25th Guard in honour of Codreanu'*.



DECEMBER 2022

WARSAW. On 1 December, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, the host **Jan Bodakowski**, discussing an article from the Catholic newspaper *'Gosc Niedzielny'* (*'Your Sunday Guest'*), compared migrants coming to Poland to animals: *'Such immigration is very harmful, just as the immigration of Islamic immigrants is harmful. They are like animals that come to our country and often destroy our native animals'*. Bodakowski also made offensive and false statements about migrants coming to Poland on the Media Narodowe channel on 2 December. His comment was: *'How does «Gazeta Wyborcza» [liberal daily – translator's note] want to fight the migration crisis in Poland? They want to invite immigrants, probably Islamists, Negroes and Asians, who will establish Shariah in Poland'*. Likewise, in a press review on 12 December about refugees on the Polish-Belarusian border, Bodakowski stated: *'[...] strangely enough, these circles based around*

«Gazeta Wyborcza» do not mind letting them in, supporting the admission of Islamic immigrants to Poland. They like raving about Islam being a religion of peace. It is not. [...] here in Europe, in Poland, we want to live normally, without Islamic immigrants installing Shariah law for us’.

WARSAW. On 2 December, historian and academic teacher Dr. **Stanislaw Krajski**, in an interview conducted by **Jan Bodakowski** on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, disseminated one of the most bizarre antisemitic conspiracy theories, according to which Jews from Israel plan to settle in parts of Ukraine (propagators of this vision often use the term ‘*Heavenly Jerusalem*’). According to this theory, the Jews are to blame for the outbreak of the war. Krajski reasoned: ‘Of course, it [*the war in Ukraine – translator’s note*] favours them [*the Jews*], because huge numbers of Ukrainians from eastern Ukraine are now coming to Poland. Our authorities behave strangely, as if they wanted these Ukrainians to stay here forever. And now, it is possible to implement the idea that from those areas that the Jews want to occupy, the Ukrainians will be transferred there after the war in Eastern Ukraine, which will be undergoing rebuilding, because there will be a shortage of people there [...], while the centre of Ukraine will be depopulated and the Jews will be able to settle there’. Krajski is the author of a number of books, including a recent book entitled ‘**Polish Freemasonry 2020**’ (Publishing House of st. Thomas Aquinas), in which he presented a conspiratorial vision of history filled with antisemitism.

WARSAW. On 2 December, in a broadcast on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, the host **Oliver Pochwat** and his interlocutor Dr. **Wojciech Golonka** (columnist for the far-right weekly ‘**Do Rzeczy**’ and president of the **Andegavenum Institute of European Heritage**) made comments expressing hostility towards Muslims. The starting point for the conversation was Golonka’s article entitled ‘Chronicle of How France Went Wild’ (‘*Do Rzeczy*’, No. 48/2022), in which he described crime in that country in a rather hysterical way, linking it primarily with immigration: ‘Wildness is becoming a permanent phenomenon, mass immigration adds fuel to the fire, reforms seem more cosmetic than institutional, overly vocal critics are «fascists», «racists» and «...phobes» and «...ists» of any kind, whilst the police fight to restore the rule of law and have to beg the military for protection’. In the same vein, he asked at the end of the text: ‘What level will crime and savagery reach before some strong factor restores order? Will the French state as we know it (a nuclear state!) be eventually maintained, or will there be a «Lebanonization» of the country?’

Golonka repeated the content of his article in the broadcast on Media Narodowe. He also made a false and insulting statement towards Muslims: ‘One must remember that it is natural for Islam to divide the world into the world of Islam and the world to be conquered by Islam’. This was echoed by the host Oliver Pochwat who stated that France ‘appears to be a country of culture, art, perfume, literature, music, but under this cloak there is violence, rape, robbery, immigrants, political correctness, also the degeneration of the entire nation and destruction of Christianity’. He also falsely stated: ‘If we look at the statistics of what is happening in France, it’s all done by people who come from the Maghreb countries [*Muslim countries of north-west Africa – translator’s note*]’.

WARSAW. On 4 December, death threats and posts promoting violence against representatives of the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association appeared on YouTube in relation to a programme entitled ‘*Polish Snitches – Our National Speciality*’ by **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, a far-right propagandist. Because of speaking out against antisemitism, the members of the association were called ‘*anti-Polish*’.

celebrities’ and ‘snitches’. Here are some examples of the comments: ‘There should be a law allowing such snitches to be put in prison for at least for 3 months, and the good boys there would take good care of them’, ‘Once the Polish Underground State [during World War II – translator’s note] had special services to counteract snitching and conspiring. And such people were called traitors’, ‘I don’t see why Polish [Secret] Services couldn’t do away with such liars and snitches? After all, they are working against our national interest, exposing us to losses that are difficult to estimate. They are not brave people, so one intimidation and it would be over’. Another viewer wrote back, ‘Somehow the Jews can do it, their services, and ours cannot’.

During the broadcast, Ziemkiewicz once again uttered slanders against the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association and its co-founder, Prof. Rafal Pankowski. Ziemkiewicz referred to the scandal caused by the presence of the **3dom** publishing house from Czestochowa (known for publishing antisemitic books) at the History Book Fair in Warsaw in November 2022. ‘Some American Jewish Committee based in Warsaw has already picked this up [information about the publishing house’s participation in the book fair – ed.] thanks to what the local snitches brought here and shared with the whole world. And the snitches are the same as usual, of course Mr. Rafal Pankowski from Collegium Civitas. [...] He has a whole organisation of such snitches who send letters all over the world, to some American organisations, that there is such terrible antisemitism here, that they should protest, that they should fight against Poland, because there is terrible antisemitism here’. Later in the programme, Ziemkiewicz spread further lies about the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association: ‘There are organisations such as the aforementioned «NEVER AGAIN» [...] which is only concerned with writing denouncing letters to the world, snitching and mobilising against Poland’.

WROCLAW. On 6 December, members of **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (NOP, National Rebirth of Poland**, far-right party) took part in a meeting with a group of young children, held under a slogan ‘Nationalist Santa Claus 2022’. One activist, dressed as Santa Claus, wore an armband with the symbol of so-called Falanga, used in the interwar period by Polish fascist organisations. Another NOP man wore a T-shirt bearing... two rifles, as well as a neo-Nazi slogan (the so-called ‘fourteen words’): ‘We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children’. This slogan was created by **David Lane**, the leader of the American racist terrorist group **The Order**. The text was inspired by an excerpt from **Adolf Hitler’s ‘Mein Kampf’**. In addition, the T-shirt bore the so-called ‘rune of life’ – sign used by **SS** units, and in contemporary setting it is a symbol of hatred used by racist organisations in many countries. Photos from the meeting were published on the organisation’s website.



WARSAW. On 14 December, three **Konfederacja (Confederation** party) Members of Parliament walked out of the Sejm chamber during the reading of a resolution commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the tragic death of the first President of Poland Gabriel Narutowicz. He was murdered on 16 December 1922 by an extremist and chauvinist **Eligiusz Niewiadomski**. Since Narutowicz

had the support in voting from Members of Parliament representing ethnic minorities, the press connected to the right side of the political scene (i.e. **Narodowa Demokracja – National Democracy** movement) unleashed a nationalistic and antisemitic campaign.

Originally, the resolution commemorating Narutowicz was to be passed by acclamation, but Konfederacja MP **Grzegorz Braun** opposed this. He voted against this resolution, same as another MP from that same party, **Konrad Berkowicz**. Five other representatives of Konfederacja abstained from voting. These were **Krzysztof Bosak** (presidential candidate in the 2020 elections), **Krystian Kaminski**, **Krzysztof Tuduj**, **Michal Urbaniak**, and **Robert Winnicki**. For many years, the adherents of extreme right in Poland have manifested their support for Niewiadomski and the murder committed by him on the President.

WARSAW. On 15 December, **Jan Bodakowski**, editor of the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, posted a recording in which he paid tribute to **Eligiusz Niewiadomski** – the murderer of the first president of Poland, Gabriel Narutowicz. He recorded his account at the crime scene, in the Zacheta National Gallery of Art, where Niewiadomski shot President Narutowicz on 16 December, 1922. The recording was published by Bodakowski on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the murder. This is how he praised the assassin: *‘A fiercely patriotic Pole [...], Eligiusz Niewiadomski, the author of a wonderful work on the history of art, performed an extraordinary artistic act killing Gabriel Narutowicz, a President elected by the votes of socialists and national minorities’*. In the further part of this recording, Bodakowski referred to conspiracy theories about this murder blaming Jozef Pilsudski (Polish statesman who served as the Chief of State in 1918-1922 and First Marshal of Poland, from 1920) for it: *‘We do not know, we will never find out whether it was his [Niewiadomski’s] conscious act, or if it was a provocation on the part of the Sanacja movement [political circle of Jozef Pilsudski after 1926, thus Bodakowski made a clear mistake – translator’s note], because Jozef Pilsudski was very keen to discredit nationalist circles and attribute this assassination to them’*. At the end of his argument, Bodakowski once again assured his audience: *‘The killer of President Narutowicz, Eligiusz Niewiadomski, was an ardent Polish patriot, a man of great culture’*. The video published by him had the title: *‘100th anniversary of the assassination attempt on Narutowicz by the outstanding artist Eligiusz Niewiadomski’*. Bodakowski posted the same material on Twitter.

Bodakowski also praised Niewiadomski in the article entitled *‘New facts about the assassination of Narutowicz. Was Niewiadomski a victim of provocation?’*, which was released on 21 December, 2021 on the Media Narodowe portal. This is how he described the assassin: *‘An outstanding Polish painter and art historian, a great Polish patriot, academic lecturer, Eligiusz Niewiadomski, sacrificed his life on the altar of his homeland, killing the freemason Gabriel Narutowicz, a president elected by the votes of the Jews and socialists’*. He further stated: *‘Niewiadomski saw a threat in the activities of: socialists, the Jews (who degenerated socialism), freemasons and demoralised mobs who were imposing their will on Poles and Poland thanks to the pathologies of democracy. Niewiadomski was characterised by fierce patriotism’*. Bodakowski also noted another benefit from the murder of Narutowicz: *‘Following the posthumous mass cult of Eligiusz Niewiadomski as a martyr in the national cause Jozef Pilsudski became disenchanted with Poles. Shocked by their attitude, Pilsudski*

withdrew from public life for three and a half years and it cannot be denied that this was Niewiadomski's posthumous success'.

WARSAW. On 19 December, on the **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel on YouTube, **Jan Bodakowski**, discussing the topic of help provided to the Jews by Poles during World War II, used antisemitic generalisations offensive to the victims of the Holocaust. Falsifying the historical truth, he stated: *'Some of the Jews who escaped from the ghetto were provocateurs and Gestapo agents who escaped only in order to discover the smuggling routes and betray the Poles. Also, unfortunately, Jewish fugitives caught by the Germans had this habit of very willingly revealing who had been helping them; they believed that if they were to die, then the whole world should also die'*. During the broadcast, he repeated his xenophobic convictions about migrants coming to Poland: *'I would like to remind you that it is enough to look at what is happening in the Islamic countries [...]. These immigrants are not refugees from there, they are people who come here to destroy our Western civilization and implement Shariah'*.

WARSAW. On 21 December, **Rafal Ziemkiewicz**, a columnist for the weekly right-wing magazine *'Do Rzeczy'*, published on his YouTube channel a tirade with transphobic messages and scorned gestures condemning racial persecution in various countries. He perorated, *'«Gazeta Wyborcza», Ringier Springer, TVNs [liberal media – ed.] and others like that. [...] This is a conscious production [...] of mentally disordered people. [...] If you're a boy, you're supposed to wear a dress and apologise for being a boy, because that means you've been oppressing coloured, Black people for two thousand years. [...] If you have a willy, you are responsible for all evil, all misery that is in this world. [...] You think I am fooling around? No, on the internet I have seen pictures filmed by a parent in a kindergarten, when there are these activities where they make white children make speeches, like in the Soviet Union or in China [...] every child has to publicly hit its chest in an act of self-accusation, saying that I, as a white child here, I am sorry for the thousands of years of evil that I have committed. Again the same mechanism: sick people are produced, they are brainwashed, a girl doesn't know if she is a girl or a boy'*.

During the broadcast, Ziemkiewicz also referred to the autobiographical book by the deputy editor-in-chief of *'Gazeta Wyborcza'* newspaper Jaroslaw Kurski, entitled *'Dziady i dybbuki'* (*'Forefathers and Dybbuks'*, it is a reference to Polish and Jewish folklore respectively – translator's note) in which the author described the story of his Jewish ancestors. Ziemkiewicz made remarks with an antisemitic context, *'Again we are dealing with the same thing, with a madman simply, with a man who has a mental disorder, that there is this terrible Polishness in him, which he has to tear out of himself, because he has discovered in himself that he would not have to be Polish at all, that his ancestors had wronged him. He could have belonged to the Chosen People, he could have been a cosmopolitan everywhere in the world, and this horrible mother deprived him of that, forced him into this disgusting Polishness. [...] Yet another example – a kind of nationality dysphoria'*.

He concluded with an obscure conspiracy theory about a 'people's hysterics industry' (in which he also included the anti-COVID-19 epidemic measures), *'The revolution of Klaus Schwab [CEO of the World Economic Forum – ed.], of Joel Harari [Yuval Noah Harari – Israeli historian, professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem] and of all those Gateses [Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft], Bezoses [Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon] and of other whackos out there have gutted the kind of new*

proletariat that can be created by using media tools, socio-technical tools, just to hurt people. [...] I repeat what I've said here about the covid panic craze, that it was actually happening in Europe in the same way as it had been happening during the Black Plague. [...] The very eruption of madness, of mental deviations, of various personality problems is nothing new. [...] Someone is supporting this, someone has already noticed that you can put money into the industry of making people hysterical and we have a new hysterical proletariat, we have freaks that we can push into the streets [...] and drive our gazillion-worth interests'.

WARSAW. On 23 December, far-right commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** in an interview for **TV Republika** (far-right TV and YouTube channel) used a phrase with antisemitic overtones to criticise Polish opposition, which he described as *'opposition and left-liberal Sanhedrins'* ('Sanhedrin' was a Jewish religious and judicial institution in ancient Judea). It was a suggestion (or rather an accusation) that the opposition in Poland is led by Jews. During the broadcast, he also ridiculed victims of the COVID-19 pandemic in China, *'China, which was actually admired, all those covid scaremongers. [...] So what, now in China in the crematoria you have to sign up while you're still alive to get burned in time, because the occupancy rate is so high'*. He also derided vaccines and the pandemic, spouting more conspiracy theories, *'It is a horrible scandal what has happened, ridiculing and discrediting the medical sector completely. [...] We are a few billion short thanks to the vaccines that suck too. [...] Big pharma have squeezed billions, trillions, gazillions of dollars out of taxpayers around the world, and it's their biggest profit, apart from the climate scam of course, which is also one of the biggest scams in recent history'*.

KIELCE. On 26 December, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association was informed of another homophobic case of vandalism. Benches painted in the colours of the rainbow, which were financed as part of the civic budget [aka participatory budget – financial resources set aside for projects most popular among the citizens – translator's note] were devastated. *'Unknown perpetrators'* have painted a slogan *'F*ck LGBT'* on some of them. The benches were installed in December 2020 and have been repeatedly vandalised since then. Offensive inscriptions have been appearing regularly, including *'F*ck f*ggots'*, and wooden parts of the benches have been left broken.

WARSAW. On 26 December, **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party) Member of Parliament **Krzysztof Bosak** appeared on **Goniec** channel on YouTube and condemned the custom of lighting candles by the President of Poland to mark the Jewish holiday Hannukah. Such a celebration, with the participation of the Chief Rabbi of Poland takes place annually in the Presidential Palace (this is a holiday taking place on variable dates and in 2022 the lighting of candles took place on 19 December). Referring to this tradition Bosak made a commentary with antisemitic undertones, *'I see how politicians light all candles in Poland, except those for the Advent [the period of four weeks before Christmas – translator's note], and I won't name the occasions on which politicians holding highest state offices in the country light candles in Poland, and somehow I cannot see them boasting of having lit Advent candles'*. Bosak ran for the office of President in 2020.

KONSTANCIN-JEZIORNA. On 27 December, Prof. Jacek Leociak, co-founder of the Centre for Holocaust Research at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences,

informed on Facebook that an anti-Ukrainian poster signed by **Katarzyna Sokolowska's Fundacja Wolyn Pamietamy (Volhynia Remembered Foundation)** appeared on a noticeboard on Wilanowska Street. The content of the poster instrumentally evoked crimes from World War II in order to incite hostility towards Ukrainian refugees. In addition, the poster was placed in such a way so as to partially cover up a poster in the colours of the Ukrainian flag which displayed *'Information for Ukrainian refugees'* about the possibility of contact with the municipal office. Sokolowska first organised the action of hanging these posters in July 2021. As she reported online, at that time 12,000 posters appeared in 400 towns and cities.

WARSAW. On 29 December, on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel, **Krzysztof Kasprzak**, member of the board of the **Fundacja Zycie i Rodzina Kai Godek (Life and Family Foundation)**, a pseudo pro-life organisation modelled on the far-right organisations in Russia and other countries; Kaja Godek – a candidate in the European Parliament elections in 2019 from the list of far-right **Konfederacja – Confederation** party), made homophobic and transphobic comments. He stated: *'If someone does not fall into the hands of abortionists, then they have a chance to fall into the hands of LGBT paedophiles – after all, it is not said that these environments rape children on a massive scale, that they are a spreader of pedophilia pathology. If someone manages to avoid LGBT paedophiles, they can always be treated with the so-called transition and mutilated'*.

KOZAKOWICE DOLNE. On the night of 31 December to 1 January, in this village in the Cieszyn County, someone vandalised a Lutheran cemetery and broke a window in the chapel. Several tombstones were destroyed, including those which bore inscriptions in German. Police were notified of the incident. The perpetrator of the damage appeared at the police station voluntarily and pleaded guilty. He was charged with desecrating the burial site, damaging three gravestones and a window. For centuries, the region of Cieszyn Silesia has been characterised by national and religious diversity; Poles, Jews, and Germans have lived on this land. Nowadays, people of Protestant faith are sometimes considered non-Poles/Germans.

YEAR 2023

JANUARY

WARSAW. On 3 January, host **Jan Bodakowski** on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel mocked the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah (commemorating the victorious revolt of the Maccabees and the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165 BCE). He presented a bizarre argument, maintained in an antisemitic tone, and at the same time contemptuous of LGBT people. Namely, Bodakowski stated as follows: *'The Hanukkah holiday, recently celebrated by Judaists, is a homophobic holiday, because they worship the Jews [their ancestors – translator's note], who overthrew the Greek dictatorship, which imposed, among other things, the rainbow revolution. [...] And let's remember this when criticising everyone who burns Hanukkah candles, that this is a very nationalistic and homophobic holiday. Due to this it is very close to my heart'*.

WARSAW. On 4 January, on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel, the usual host **Jan Bodakowski** made a comment tinged with racism. While discussing the situation of refugees from Ukraine on the job market, he declared: *'I will not hide the fact that I much prefer white Ukrainian women who are close to us racially and culturally; well-educated people who come from a neighbouring country, than attracting unskilled labour to Poland from Asian and African countries, which [...] people have a hostile attitude towards our cultural values'*.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 7 January, at Jasna Gora, Poland's most important religious shrine, some of the participants of the so-called Patriotic Pilgrimage of Football Fans displayed banners with racist content. The hooligans of **Rakow Czestochowa** had a flag with the words *'Krew i Honor'* (*'Blood and Honour'*) made to resemble the logo of the international neo-Nazi organisation **Blood and Honour**. These same words (in German *'Blut und Ehre'*) constituted the motto of the Nazi youth organisation **Hitlerjugend**. Moreover, one of the supporter of the Rakow club displayed a scarf with the slogan *'Janusz Walus is our role model'* (Walus was sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa for racially motivated murder in 1993. He never showed any remorse. In November 2022, the court in South Africa decided to release him on parole). The scarf also bore the words *'White honour, white pride'* (from lyrics of a song performed by the neo-Nazi group called **Konkwista 88**), as well as the sign of the triskelion – a three-pronged swastika (racist symbol coming from South Africa) against the background of Third Reich flag. Also, hooligans of **Zaglebie Sosnowiec** team displayed a characteristic red-and-white banner resembling the logo of Blood and Honour. It contained the slogan *'It has always been and will be a pure country. White people whom I know will always fight against communism'*. It is a quotation from the song by **Honor**, a Polish music band praising the ideology of national socialism in their lyrics. Some supporters carried scarves with the slogan *'Death to the enemies of the motherland'*. In contemporary setting, this message constitutes an incentive to aggression based on ideology.



LUBLIN. On 7 January, at a bus stop on Krolewska Street, two men assaulted a Ukrainian woman, her 13-year-old son and her adult pregnant daughter. When the bandits heard that the family was talking in Ukrainian, they shouted abuses, *'Ukrainian wh*res'*, *'F*ck Ukrainians'* and *'Get the hell out of Poland'*. When the boy tried to call the police, they pushed him to the ground and hit his head with fists. They also roughed up the expectant mother, although she cried that she is pregnant. The mother of the siblings related the incident, *'I was very scared for her. I shouted to her to run. She has bruises on her body, but luckily the baby is safe. It is sad that none of the people who were nearby reacted'*. Police were called to the scene. They arrested two men living in Lublin, 31-year-old **Pawel K.** and 26-year-old **Albert Sz.** The spokesman for the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Lublin Agnieszka Kepka informed, *'Pawel K. was charged with publicly insulting Ukrainian nationals by addressing them with words commonly regarded as vulgar and derogatory, of known content, because of their national identity. [...] Another charge concerns acting jointly and in concert with the*

second culprit, also because of the victims' nationality. In other words, committing violence by beating Ukrainian nationals'. The other man, Albert Sz., was also suspected of directing death threats at the Ukrainian woman and her children.

The woman came to Poland with her 13-year-old son in March of 2022, fleeing from the war. They settled in Lublin where her daughter had been a student for a few years already.

WARSAW. On 10 January, in an interview broadcast on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel, host **Jan Bodakowski** and his guest **Marek Skalski** (an extreme right-wing commentator and YouTuber) disseminated the antisemitic content contained in the myth about 'Judeo-communism' (a pejorative stereotype saying that most Jews collaborated with the Soviet Union in importing communism to Poland). Bodakowski stated that during World War II in the Polish Eastern Borderlands '[...] *The Jews were mainly involved in cooperation with the Soviets, not in defending Poland*', and 'after World War II, the Russians decided that such a ruling class in the PRL [People's Republic of Poland] would be people of Jewish origin'. Referring to the antisemitic repressions of March 1968, Bodakowski stated that '*representatives of Judeo-communism were able to go to the West and live in prosperity, when Poles had to sit in the People's Republic of Poland and suffer poverty*', which was picked up by Skalski, saying: '*They weren't really forced, because most of them left Poland voluntarily, they took advantage of the opportunity*'. At the end of these digressions full of historical falsifications, Bodakowski added: '*The privileges of the Jewish community before March 1968 were very significant, but even after 1968 it was not so bad for them*'.

WARSAW. On 11 January, on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel, as an 'expert' on the affairs of the British royal family was invited **Rafal Kulicki**, the head of the marginal group named **Kolo Monarchistyczne (Monarchist Circle)** and the **Konfederacja's (Confederation** – a nationalist party) candidate in the 2019 parliamentary elections in Lublin electoral area (he received 537 votes, i.e. 0,09 percentage of support). The conversation took place in connection with the release of Prince Harry's memoir 'Spare' and concerned his spouse Meghan Markle. Kulicki made a bizarre comment, coloured with racist prejudices, about the origin of the Duchess of Sussex, emphasising her 'non-white' roots. He stated: '*You can't really tell it by her looks, but she is half, how to say elegantly, African. You can't quite see it, because she has more European facial features, but she has mixed ethnicity*'.

At the end of the interview with Kulicki, published on the Media Narodowe website, there was the following commentary of another 'expert': '*the mother of Princess Diana, Frances Shand Kydd, was Jewish – she was born Frances Ruth Burke Roche. Officially, Diana was the daughter of Earl Spencer and Frances Shand Kydd, but sources claim that it was the Jew James Goldsmith who had a long-standing affair with Frances at the time when Diana was conceived. [...] There is a striking resemblance between Princess Diana and Goldsmith's three children, Zak, Ben and Jemima Goldsmith. And the moral of the story? Starting with William, those damned English will have a Jewish king. So, HOSANNA! It's so heart-warming to see those Kikes quarrel among themselves. [...] PHEW!*'

WARSAW. On 12 January, on the YouTube **Media Narodowe (National Media)** channel, the host **Jan Bodakowski** and his interlocutor **Piotr Barelkowski** (an employee of the Media Narodowe

responsible for the development and distribution of this channel's content) slandered Jerzy Owsiak and the activities of the Wielka Orkiestra Swiatecznej Pomocy (Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity – the biggest, non-governmental, non-profit, charity organisation in Poland, known for promoting such values as peace and respect for minorities) in an one hour-long broadcast.

In the accusations and insults thrown at Owsiak, Barelkowski... referred to the period of the Third Reich: *'The form of this event, which is the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity, refers directly to the Nazi Winterhilfe. This was an action organised around Christmas time, which was supposed to help soldiers at the front, collect money for medical aid, for some warm socks for the Nazis fighting on the Eastern Front. And that's where the money was collected in the same way [...]. You have to be blind not to see the analogy, that the very form of the event was clearly taken by Mr. Jerzy Owsiak or modelled on **Hitler's** Winterhilfe'*. Bodakowski reacted to these words, but in such a way that he even strengthened their offensive meaning: *'The fact that [Owsiak] took [Nazi models – translator's note] – I wouldn't go that far. Maybe he didn't know it, maybe he just did it that way, but it's also peculiar that he just somehow did it that way, just like the way those German National Socialists somehow did it that way'*. In the next part of the broadcast, Barelkowski repeated his slander against Owsiak: *'In Winterhilfe, children were just collecting money to help the Nazi army'*.

In addition, on the air of Media Narodowe, Barelkowski denied Owsiak's social activities since the 1980s, promoting democratic values and alternative culture among young people. He put forward the following conspiracy theory on this subject: *'Collaboration with the PRL [People's Republic of Poland], collaboration with the then establishment and acting on its behalf, these are the roots of Mr. Jerzy Owsiak. [...] He served the authorities to somehow organise these young people, somehow pack them up, so that they would not be so dangerous for the system. [...] Let's say it in capital letters that Mr. Jerzy Owsiak was part of the operation of the secret services'*.

In the course of the conversation, Bodakowski attacked Owsiak also because of the interview he gave to the 'NEVER AGAIN' magazine in 2000. It was devoted, among other things, to the issue of national chauvinism and violence, especially by skinheads, against minorities. Bodakowski insultingly described the magazine published by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association as *'pseudo-anti-fascist'*.

In June 2022, Barelkowski was fired from Radio Poznan in connection with his interview with **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** (MP of the far-right **Konfederacja – Confederation** party), who denied Russian war crimes in Ukraine and praised **Putin** on the air. Barelkowski did not react to these statements. The radio informed about his dismissal because he *'did not maintain journalistic professionalism'*.

WARSAW. On 20 January, in a programme broadcast by **TV Republika** (a far-right TV and YouTube channel), Prof. **Krzysztof Jasiewicz** expressed a bizarre statement about the possibility of partition of Ukraine which was in line with Putin's propaganda theses. Talking about the history of eastern lands belonging to pre-war Poland he added, *'There appear at this moment, one can say, some problems of a political nature, because, for example, I do not remember, the name escapes me now, but a representative of the Great Ukraine party said outright that Poland should be given back its south-eastern borderlands'*. The party mentioned by Jasiewicz is, in fact, a marginal group created in 2005 and combining animosity towards migrants with a pro-Russian stance and support for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

The statement made by Jasiewicz was echoed in anti-Ukrainian commentaries posted under the recording of the conversation on the TV Republika YouTube channel, for example: *'They could give Lwow [Lviv] back to Poland, but without Ukrainians [sic!]', 'Those savages from the Wild Fields, who now amount to 10 million here [in Poland] [...] I would dig a wide ditch along their way to Europe and I would plant sharpened poles there'*.

Jasiewicz also invoked the antisemitic conspiracy theory about the part played by Jews in the creation of the Bolshevik party, *'There is a theory that it was only Jews who built that state [USSR]'*, but he emphasised that *'within the Central Committee [of the Communist party] there were 44 nationalities present'*. In 2013, Jasiewicz was dismissed from the post of Head of the Research Group for Analysis of East European Issues within the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, in connection with an interview for the *'Focus Historia Ekstra'* monthly which contained antisemitic statements putting the blame for the Holocaust on Jews.

LEGNICA. On 28 January, the [Liegnitz.pl](#) page on Facebook, dedicated to the history of the pre-war town of Legnica (a town in Lower Silesia), shared information about *'unknown perpetrators'* having made antisemitic inscriptions on the monument of Samuel Benjamin Ruffer (1757-1827), the founder of the textile industry in this town. They wrote *'F*ck Jews with axes'* and painted the swastika. *'Somebody'* also devastated a stone dedicated to the city councillor Erich Schneider (1835-1896), to whom Legnica owes the creation of green areas. Among his merits was the creation of a park in the southern suburb of the town with horse riding paths, marked out in 1877. The swastika symbols appeared on Schneider's monument, as well as in many other spots in town.

WARSAW. On 29 January, **Maciej Rowinski**, sports commentator of the right-wing portal **wPolityce.pl**, posted a message on Twitter which contained an insult with an antisemitic overtone. Responding to a poll by Dr. Seweryn Dmowski from the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies of Warsaw University, concerning those soccer clubs which are not liked, Rowinski spelt the name of Widzew Lodz as Zydzew. This word, using the similar sounding/looking 'Zyd' ('Jew'), is a popular invective in the football hooligans community.

For 13 years (1995-2008) Rowinski had worked in the sports section of the *'Zycie Warszawy'* daily, for many years he was the speaker and editor of various publications at horse racing events at the Warsaw Sluzewiec Racecourse. He was also connected with the *'Nasza Legia'* sport magazine and the *'Fakt'* daily.

WARSAW. On 29 January, the authorities of the Department of History of Warsaw University and the Students' Council of the Department of History issued statements in connection with an antisemitic incident which took place on campus. According to the information, someone had written lyrics of a song which ridiculed the victims of World War II concentration camps on the door of one of the toilets. In the statements, the lecturers and students emphasized, *'The community of our Department is unanimous in condemning attitudes, actions, and views of antisemitic character, as well as the lack of respect for human suffering. These are unbecoming not only to a Warsaw University student, but to any decent human being'*.

WARSAW. On 30 January, the popular writer Jacek Piekara in his Twitter post denied the link between Nazi ideology and the crimes committed by the German Reich during World War II and called the US Ambassador Marek Brzezinski ‘son of a b*tch’ in connection with his visit to the Schindler’s Factory museum in Krakow together with Douglas Emhoff, the husband of US Vice President Kamala Harris.

Ambassador Brzezinski wrote on social media about his visit on the occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day: ‘We visited Schindler’s Factory – a museum showing life in Krakow during the Nazi occupation. It is an important lesson about preserving humanity in a horrific period of history’. Piekara commented: ‘There was no «Nazi occupation», just like there was no state called Nazistan. There was a German occupation and a criminal, genocidal state called the German Reich. And whoever doesn’t understand this is a denier. Or in plain language: son of a b*tch...’ (the full word in the original).

Piekara’s entry sparked further offensive comments against M. Brzezinski calling for his removal from Poland due to the use of the historically justified term ‘Nazi’, e.g.: ‘The Brzezinskis have been associated with think tanks financed by Germany for years. Pro-Germanness will continue regardless of the positions held at the time. Zbigniew did not do a good job in the upbringing of his children’, ‘What is this idiot doing in Poland? The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cannot demand a replacement?’, ‘The ambassador is either uneducated (which I doubt) or he plays for the same goal as moneylenders from the Holocaust Industry who want to turn Poles into Nazis. Considering that Douglas Emhoff is a high-ranking Jew, I’d go with option 2’.

Piekara is the author of 49 popular fantasy novels and a former editor of computer games magazines, his Twitter profile (often expressing far-right views) has over 50,000 followers. His entry on amb. Brzezinski received over 600 likes in a few hours.

FEBRUARY 2023

WARSAW. On 3 February, the far-right **TV Republika** channel broadcast a programme in which the regular commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** voiced derogatory words with racist undertones about refugees at the border between Poland and Belarus. He also formulated false accusations against Dr. Hanna Machinska, former Deputy Ombudsman (dismissed from the post in December 2022; civil society organisations, among them the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association, protested against this dismissal). Ziemkiewicz stated, ‘We now know why Mr. Ombudsman got rid of this lady [Machinska], because she concocted some stories about Poles committing genocide on these various Ahmeds sent in by Lukashenka’. In fact, H. Machinska never used the word ‘genocide’ with regard to the situation along the Polish-Belarusian border.

WARSAW. On 11 February, **Konfederacja (Confederation, far-right party)** Member of Parliament **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** posted a message on Twitter in which he supported the military aggression brought by Putin’s Russia. At the same time, in a comment he made derogatory remarks about sexual minorities and mocked actions undertaken against the COVID-19 pandemic. He wrote (original spelling), ‘Can you *REALLY* not see that countries that *MOST DESPERATELY* attack Russia are those with the most developed *LGBTQZ* ideology, with the biggest *CoViD* hysteria, and in the

forefront of NWO, that is the New World Order, while Russia is fighting to save the Old, Tried Values; yes – even wars!!'

WARSAW. On 12 February, **Arkadiusz Karbowski**, named in the right-wing press the 'creator of the Museum of the Accursed Soldiers' [the so-called 'Accursed Soldiers' is a name given to a group of anti-communist guerrilla which operated in Poland after 1945 – translator's note], presented a shocking vision of the history of World War II referring with sympathy to the actions of Nazi Germany on the eastern front. In a series of posts on Twitter he announced, *'I never criticised Hitler for killing communists, nor for the attack on the USSR [...] The defeat of the USSR required applying means not only of a military nature, but also of a political one. [...] And one also needs to be able to enforce the inevitable policy of exploitation'*. Karbowski for years now has been publicly relativising Nazi crimes, among others, in the neo-fascist periodical '**Szczerbiec**', where he has undermined the legitimacy of the Nuremberg Tribunal, and on social media, where he has repeatedly expressed sympathies with Nazi collaborators and volunteers in the multi-ethnic **SS** military formations.

WARSAW. On 14 February, in the building of the Agora publishing house, activists of **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All- Polish Youth**, a far-right group dating back to pre-war antisemitic incidents) disrupted a meeting with an outstanding Ukrainian poet and essayist Oksana Zabuzhko. They shouted, *'There can be no agreement to promotion of banderism in Poland!'*, *'Banderites are murderers'*, and *'Bandera is your role-model [Stepan Bandera was a Ukrainian nationalist from the pre-war and World War II era. His name is a frequent ethnic slur against all Ukrainians in Poland today – translator's note]'*. They also displayed a banner with the latter slogan. They were led out by security.

Again on 7 March, in the Raczyński Library in **POZNAN**, several representatives of Młodzież Wszechpolska disrupted a debate with Oksana Zabuzhko, held as part of a series of events under the title 'The Culture of Poznan for Ukraine – One Year after the Outbreak of the War'. They chanted slogans of nationalist nature, among others *'Poland is us, not Bandera and his dogs!'* The police were called to the scene. They checked the ID's of the aggressive men. The management of the Library decided to cancel the meeting and it was later held online. Since the beginning of the war against Ukraine, the extreme right uses manipulation to exploit the crimes of 1943-45 to incite hate against contemporary Ukrainians.

WARSAW. On 20 February, **Krzysztof Wyszowski**, member of the Council of the Institute of National Remembrance, posted a derogatory message on his Twitter profile, with homophobic content, concerning the Ambassador of the United States of America in Poland, Mark Brzezinski. Commenting on a photo of the US President Joe Biden who travelled by train from Kiev to Przemyśl, Wyszowski stated: *'Some time ago, the old Brzezinski was the advisor. The young one is simply a flunkey dealing with LGBTQI+ = ~'* (original spelling). With this commentary, referring to the person of Zbigniew Brzezinski, the father of the present Ambassador and a former National Security Advisor to US President Carter, Wyszowski, in a contemptuous way condemned the involvement of Mark Brzezinski in activities supporting the LGBT community in Poland. Krzysztof Wyszowski was an activist of the anti-Communist opposition in the so-called Polish People's Republic. He is

known for his offensive statements posted on the Internet. For example, on 10 October 2021 Wyszowski posted a message on his Twitter profile in which he equated Wanda Traczyk-Stawska and Anna Przedpelska-Trzeciakowska, women who took active part in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, with the Nazi henchman Oskar Dirlewanger, responsible for war crimes.

SZCZECIN. On 24 February, **Dariusz Matecki** (chairman of the **Solidarna Polska – United Poland** party in the Western Pomeranian region and Szczecin city councillor) posted a tweet with an antisemitic message. On the anniversary of the judicial murder by the Communist authorities on 24 February 1953 of Gen. August Emil Fieldorf, Matecki contained in his post the following demand: *‘To this day we have not heard any apology from Israel for murders of our Polish elite’*. In this way he referred to the ideological myth which accuses Jews of responsibility for hostile activities of Communists against Poland.

WROCLAW. On 26 February, two days after the anniversary of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, during the top-flight football match between **Slask Wroclaw** and Lech Poznan hooligans of the local club hung up a banner on the fencing around the playing field which displayed a crossed out Ukrainian coat-of-arms. On 1 March, the League Committee imposed a fine of 15,000 PLN on the Slask club.

MARCH 2023

GDANSK. On the night of 11/12 March , two juvenile perpetrators painted the swastika on the wall of the synagogue in Gdansk-Wrzeszcz. Three ‘K’ letters, which stand for **Ku-Klux-Klan**, also appeared on the façade. The incident was reported to the police. In connection with it, a 15-year-old Gdansk inhabitant was arrested. The second culprit suspected of the devastation, a 14-year-old boy, turned himself in. Evidence collected in the case has been handed over to the Family Court. In a press release Michal Semet, the presiding member of the Jewish Religious Community in Gdansk, commented, *‘In the synagogue we carry out educational and cultural activities. We make sure that this place is open also to fugitives from Ukraine, not only those who are Jewish [...] Painting of such graffiti seems to be a small act but has a very painful dimension – as if we wanted to forget about what had happened. It is an encouragement to hate and aggression’*.
