Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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

Written declaration No. 736

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 2316 (2020) and Resolution 2359 (2021) called on Poland to uphold the rule of law and human rights. Unfortunately, the ruling of the politicised Constitutional Court in October 2021 practically pulled Poland out of the legal order of the European Union. Likewise, Poland has brought it into conflict with the European Court of Human Rights.

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

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

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

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BOER Margreet, De, Netherlands, SOC
CASTEL Laura, Spain, UEL
CORBYN Jeremy, United Kingdom, SOC
ENGELHARDT Heike, Germany, SOC
EROTOKRITOU Christiana, Cyprus, SOC
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GAHOUCHI Latifa, Belgium, SOC
GASIUK-PIHOWICZ Kamila, Poland, EPP/CD
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
LLOYD Tony, United Kingdom, SOC
LUCKS Max, Germany, SOC
MARILOTTI Gianni, Italy, SOC
NOWACKA Barbara, Poland, NR
POLAT Filiz, Germany, SOC
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
RÖSSNER Tabea, Germany, SOC
ŚMISZEK Krzysztof, Poland, SOC
TÜRK-NACHBAUR Derya, Germany, SOC
ŽIAK Miroslav, Slovak Republic, EC/DA

Total = 21

1. EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group