

New Communist Party of the Netherlands
Haarlemmerweg 177
1051 LB, Amsterdam

March 1, 2020

Mr. Ambassador Marcin Czepelak
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
The Embassy of the Republic of Poland
Alexanderstraat 25
2514 JM Den Haag

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

We have been informed that the trial against the members of the editorial board of the newspaper 'Brzask' of the Communist Party of Poland is scheduled to restart, with the first court session planned on the 3rd of March. The trial has been going on for over four years and is restarting after the appeal of the prosecutor against the acquittal issued by the court on the 18th of January 2019.

We have been informed of the changes in the penal code, with article 256 criminalizing public promotion of communist ideology and symbols, while increasing the penalty to three years of imprisonment. The penal code identifies communism with fascism and Nazism under the category 'totalitarian systems'.

We have been informed that the prosecution against the communists in Poland is accompanied by policies of removing monuments and renaming streets associated with the history of the workers movement in Poland and the construction of socialism in the 20th century.

Therefore, we express our deep concerns regarding the status of basic freedoms of the Polish people, such as the freedom of expression and the freedom of forming political parties. It should not become a crime for the working people in Poland to express their demands, to be organised in a political party and to struggle for a better future. We express our concerns regarding the attempts to rewrite history and identify communism with fascism, which is utterly unhistorical.

Consequently, we demand the prosecution against the communists in Poland to be stopped, the laws that criminalize and penalize the expression of communist ideology and symbols to be withdrawn, and the policy of altering public space in order to rewrite history to cease.

We ask you to convey our concerns and demands to the government of the Republic of Poland.

Sincerely,

International Bureau of the New Communist Party of the Netherlands (NCPN)
International Bureau of the Communist Youth Movement of the Netherlands (CJB)