



POLISH LEAGUE AGAINST DEFAMATION

11/8 Chmielna Street, 00-021 Warsaw, Poland
www.rdi-plad.org

Warsaw, 7.06.2017 r.

PLAD publishes a statement concerning the activities of Jan Grabowski

Facing the necessity of defending the good name of Poles, often nameless, murdered for helping the Jews - the Polish League Against Defamation together with the cooperating scholars strongly object to the activities and statements of Jan Grabowski, a historian lecturing at the University of Ottawa. In his numerous publications and public statements he falsifies the history of Poland, proclaiming the thesis that Poles are complicit in the extermination of Jews.

Jan Grabowski is an internationally-renowned Holocaust researcher who shares opinions consistent with Jan Tomasz Gross and Barbara Engelking. The main theses of his works and media statements show the Poles as complicit in the crimes of the Holocaust and are postwar continuators of the genocidal German actions, manifested by the so-called Kielce pogrom. The historian expresses the accusations of the lack of any actions by Polish authorities against the extermination of Jews and suggests that the Poles benefited from the tragic Jewish fate and constituted the only connection with the German occupier.

“The attempts to ascribe part of the responsibility for the crimes of the World War II and the Holocaust to the Poles are evidently actions damaging Poland and are based on Jan Grabowski’s unconfirmed estimated figures. It should be recalled that the Poles constitute the greatest number of Righteous Among the Nations honored by the Yad Vashem Institute. It’s 6706 people! The involvement of a dozen or even several dozens of individuals was required to save one Jewish person. Many Poles remained nameless heroes, because the Jews they helped did not survive until the end of the war, wanted to forget these difficult events or even did not remember the names of those who helped them. The Poles provided generous support to their neighbors, relatives and even strangers, despite the fact that any help offered to the Jews was punished with death. It is worth asking why there was such punishment for helping the Jews only in occupied-Poland?” - says Mira Wszelaka, President of the Polish League Against Defamation.

The conclusions drawn by Jan Grabowski, although untrue, are broadcast to the world. His texts, or texts referring to his works, can be found in newspapers such as the Israeli: *Haaretz and Times of Israel*, American *Washington Post* and Spanish *El Pais*. In addition, his works are a source material for many major publishing houses such as MacMillan and Academic Publishers in Oxford and Harvard. Additionally, it is disturbing that Jan Grabowski’s book *Hunting the Jews. Betrayal and murder in German-Occupied Poland* was honored in 2014 with the award of the Yad Vashem Institute, with whom the author remains in close relations.

With regard to the above, the Polish League Against Defamation prepared a document expressing opposition to Jan Grabowski's activities and requesting him to maintain scientific integrity. The letter was signed by more than 130 scholars who also see the harmfulness of speeches made by historian from Ottawa. The opinion was translated into English. The document will be given to the University of Ottawa, in which Grabowski had his lectures and speeches as well as to publishers who published his articles and books. The content of the documents will also be received by the media, which refer to Grabowski and his publications, in statements concerning Poland, the Poles and the history of our country.

“We hope that the actions taken by us will stop the ongoing process of making Grabowski the authority on the history of Poland. The fact that Grabowski is a Pole and deals with the subject of the Holocaust does not mean that he is the only expert the media can rely on in this matter. In our country, there are many historians specializing in the history of the Jews, who have fluent knowledge of foreign languages and have access to research on this subject. I hope that the pseudofacts that Grabowski is trying to promote will not replace the truth”, adds the President.

Jan Grabowski graduated from the historical studies at the University of Warsaw, he completed his doctorate at the University of Montréal's History Department. He works at the History Department of the University of Ottawa as a professor. He is a member of the Center for Research on the Holocaust of Jews of the Polish Academy of Sciences. His father was a Jew survivor of the Holocaust. He is the author or co-author of the books, among others, *“Ja tego Żyda znam! Szantażowanie Żydów w Warszawie 1939-1943”*, *“Judenjagd. Polowanie na Żydów 1942-1945. Studium dziejów pewnego powiatu”*, *“Klucze i kasa. O mieniu żydowskim w Polsce pod okupacją niemiecką i we wczesnych latach powojennych 1939-1950”*, *“Zarys Krajobrazu. Wieś polska wobec zagłady Żydów, 1942-1945”*, *“Hunt for the Jews. Betrayal and murder in German-occupied Poland ”*.

Polish League Against Defamation has existed since four years. It deals with initiating and supporting actions aimed at rectifying false information appearing in the media about the history of Poland, especially during World War II, and promotion of knowledge about Poland's history and culture.

Contact:

Polish League Against Defamation
kontakt@reduta-dobrego-imienia.pl