



ŚWIATOWE STOWARZYSZENIE
MEDIÓW POLONIJNYCH

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF POLISH MEDIA ABROAD

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APPEAL

We want to raise awareness that Andrzej Poczobut, a Polish journalist and member of the "Union of Poles in Belarus", was arrested on March 25 2021, for allegedly inciting national hatred.

His trial is to start soon, and some fear he can't get a fair trial.

Mr Poczobut made a speech about the Soviet Union's aggression against Poland on September 17 1939, and as such, he was accused of inciting hatred. The propaganda of Belarus and Russia believes that it was "the liberation of the Ukrainian and Belarusian nations oppressed by Poland".

Another element contributing to the accusations is Poczobut's statements in defence of Polish education in Belarus, which the Belarusian regime has destroyed for years.

Andżelika Borys, the head of the Union of Poles in Belarus, was also arrested at the end of March 2021, facing similar charges. After more than a year, she was released from prison in April 2022, but she is under house arrest and awaiting her trial.

Both Andrzej Poczobut and Andżelika Borys are faced with a prison sentence of 5 to 12 years if convicted. The only chance for their release is a strong reaction from European Union entities, which we are asking for.

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