



Centrum Badań
nad Zagładą Żydów
Polish Center for
Holocaust Research

Warsaw, June 10, 2017

In defence of Jan Grabowski's good name

On 7 June the Polish League Against Defamation in its [statement](#) attacked our colleague and associate in a manner as brutal as it is absurd. We cannot leave this attack without a response.

The League clearly declares the intention to question Prof. Grabowski's scholarly competence, academic integrity and moral decency, as well as to correct the error of historians from all over the world, who – according to the League – are mistaken in regarding him as an "internationally-renowned Holocaust researcher", which the League frankly acknowledges. The League's statement "concerning the activities of Jan Grabowski" and the "The standpoint of Polish scholars affiliated with the Polish League Against Defamation", supported by 134 signatures thus discredits at once both Jan Grabowski and all the historians all over the world that study the Holocaust, treating them as blind, deaf and not very intelligent. Clearly a charge of a light brigade.

The signatories say that "Grabowski fails to adhere to the fundamental rules of re-searcher's credibility", that he "creates propagandistic constructions" instead of providing "an honest picture, that he "eliminates crucial facts", that what he does "has nothing to do with science", that he "a carrier for lies in the international public and academic life", thus he "runs against the principles of the academic vocation". The signatories of the letter: "strongly op-pose Jan Grabowski's dissemination of a false and wrongful image of Poland and Polish people during World War II in placing the blame for the Holocaust upon the Polish Nation". They "urge Jan Grabowski to stop slandering the Polish Nation and adopt an attitude befitting a re-searcher, which is to serve the truth."

So many beautiful words, particularly frequent is the occurrence of "truth", but the entire argument is hardly accurate. It is pointless to try to demonstrate that "one is not a camel", as a Polish saying goes, so we will not. We are however ready to engage in a scholarly debate with competent historians.

None of the 134 signatories is a Holocaust historian. All these economists, linguists, oncologists, chemists, nuclear physicists, engineers, constructors of electromechanical appliances, environmental geologists, ethnomusicologists, theatrologists and priest professors present themselves as Holocaust experts, but cannot even quote sources they refer to or to give the correct name of the organisation that rescued Jews, which they mention.

In conclusion, Mira Wszelaka, the League's president writes: "I hope that the pseudo-facts that Grabowski is trying to promote will not replace the truth." We totally agree with the president's care for truth and we share her hope that pseudo-facts will never replace the truth. This precisely is the message of Professor Grabowski's research and educational activity.

POLISH CENTRE FOR HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

/prof. dr hab. Barbara Engelking/
/prof. dr hab. Jacek Leociak/
/dr hab. prof. IFiS Dariusz Libionka/
/dr Agnieszka Haska/
/mgr Marta Janczewska/
/mgr Jakub Petelewicz/
/mgr Alina Skibińska/

Polish Center for Holocaust Research
Institute of Philosophy and Sociology
Polish Academy of Sciences

Nowy Swiat St. 72; room 120
00-330 Warsaw; POLAND
phone: (48-603) 257 594
fax: (48-22) 826-78-23

centrum@holocaustresearch.pl
www.holocaustresearch.pl