



POLISH LEAGUE AGAINST DEFAMATION

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Warsaw, 05.04.2018

Mai Spijkers
Eigenaar bij
Uitgeverij Prometheus
Amsterdam

Dear Mr. Spijkers,

On page 140 of your recent publication, "De aanval op de natiestaat", the Author, Thierry Baudet, erroneously refers to Nazi German death camps using the expression „Poolse vernietigingskampen”. That terminology is factually incorrect and it is insulting to the memory of those Poles who died in these camps as well as to those who survived the trauma of the Nazi extermination machine.

The death camps, where several million people were murdered, were not Polish. They were German Nazi camps, built and operated on the territory of occupied Poland by Germany. The term "Polish extermination camp" is a historical distortion, painful to the Polish nation, one of the major victims of the Second World War.

The death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Belżec, Sobibór, Kulmhof and Majdanek, as well as the concentration camps in occupied Poland, were created and managed by the Germans. Therefore, the correct terminology to describe these camps as defined by UNESCO, is, "German Nazi concentration (or "extermination") camps", whereas the expression "Polish death camps" or "Polish concentration camps" is historically false and grossly misleading. It should not be used as it suggests that the victim, the Polish nation, was the perpetrator.

The use of this incorrect terminology insults the memory of countless Poles who rescued Jews at the peril of their own lives, of whom only some 6,000 were recognized as "Righteous among Nations". In occupied Poland, unlike in western European countries, the mandatory penalty for helping Jews was death, often for the entire household.

The Author, Thierry Baudet, is not an unknown personage. He is a politician, a member of the Dutch Parliament. Therefore his words have a broader impact. This is one more reason to correct the error in his book.

Consequently, we ask the Publisher to

- introduce a correction to the current edition of the book;
- publish an appropriate apology on the Publisher's internet page.

Sincerely,

Polish League Against Defamation