



POLISH LEAGUE AGAINST DEFAMATION
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www.rdi-plad.org

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Warsaw. 20.06.2018

Bruno Maida
Dipartimento di Studium
Università degli Studi di Torino

Dear Mr. Maida,

In your elaboration titled „I quattordici bambini deportati da Torino” published on your blog at: <https://conocchidibambino.wordpress.com/2018/04/23/i-quattordici-bambini-deportati-da-torino/> you erroneously refer to Nazi German death camps using the expressions “lager polacco” and “campo polacco”.

That terminology is factually incorrect and it is insulting to the memory of those 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 “lager polacco” or “campo polacco” is a historical distortion, painful to the Polish nation, one of the major victims of the Second World War.

Also the **German Nazi camp** of Auschwitz-Birkenau was created and managed by the Germans. Therefore, the correct terminology to describe these camps as defined by UNESCO is “**German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp**” (source: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/363/>), whereas the expressions “lager polacco” and “campo polacco” are 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.

As a researcher of contemporary history and a fellow at the University of Torino, you are obliged to take special care and responsibility for the word and knowledge that you give to future generations. This is one more reason to correct the error in your elaboration.

Consequently, we ask you to:

- introduce a correction to the false expressions “lager polacco” and “campo polacco”
- publish an appropriate apology on your internet page.

Mira Wszelaka

Chairman of the Polish League Against Defamation