



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

Warsaw, 14th November 2018

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Mr. Michael R. Bloomberg
Chief Executive Officer
Bloomberg L.P.
731 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Bloomberg

The article about Sunday's Independence March in Poland, entitled "Fascist Flags on Poland's 100th Birthday Show a Fractured Europe" is a shocking manipulation, that arouses our protest. We wonder about the goals, that motivated the agency to choose such a title for its article. Was it only to expanding readership? In the original version, the article in question was titled "As Macron slams nationalists, Poland embraces them more tightly".

The text promotes the use of words "fascist flags", we cannot find any fascist emblems in the photographs accompanying it. On the other hand, Poland's national colors, which are subject to legal protection, under the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, are visible. The joining together of our national colors, which are extremely important to the people of Poland, with the term "fascist flags" arouses a feeling of injustice and we perceive it as provocation.

Among the estimated 250,000 people who took part in the Independence March, everyone was happy to display our national white and red colors. The Polish flag is not a fascist symbol, as you suggest in your article! We believe that awareness of what fascist symbols look like is high and that Bloomberg employees are among those who have such an awareness.

The 11th of November, is one of the most important dates in Poland's history, as on that day in 1918 our country regained its independence, after not even existing on the face of European maps, for 123 years. This date, since the fall of Communism, is a National holiday and a day when all Poles are unified in celebration. Which this year, this was especially encouraged by Poland's President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, as it is the 100th anniversary of that joyous event.

We assure you, that Poles do not unite under fascist slogans on that day, or any other, as you have unfairly wanted to present. What's more, for us Poles, there can be no worse

offense than calling us Fascists or Nazis. As we were the nation most affected by the atrocities of WW II .The manipulation presented in your text, is a clear example of hate speech against us Poles.

An information agency should not promote false information, or mislead its readers, or manipulate the image of a country's national colors which should be respected. Bloomberg's should not resort to ethnic hate speech, because it is against the standards expected of a leading information agency.

We therefore request, that you immediately remove the article in question and publish an apology to the Polish nation.

Yours faithfully,

Maciej Świrski



Chairman of the Polish League Against Defamation