



SDRUŽENÍ
PRO INTEGRACI
A MIGRACI

24th of September, 2021

H.E. Krzysztof Strzałka
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the Slovak Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Bratislava
Ul. Paulínyho 7,
814 91 Bratislava
Slovenská republika

Chargé d'affaires **Antoni Jerzy Wrega**
Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Prague
Valdštejnská 8
118 01 Praha

Your Excellencies,

On behalf of two well-known non-governmental organizations dealing with the protection of human rights and the rights of refugees, migrants in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic, and on behalf of the holder of the International Women of Courage Award 2016 (awarded for defending the rights of refugees and migrants), we express deep concerns about current events on the Polish-Belarusian border and an outrage at the deaths of four people who died at the border.

It is unacceptable for people who are trying to get to the safety with their families to die at the borders of the European Union. It is also unacceptable for people in a migratory or refugee situation to be left without help, support and resolution for many weeks and months in the space between borders, outdoors and without shelter in conditions that run counter to human dignity.

Poland, like Slovakia and the Czech Republic, is a member of the European Union that respects international law and protects the human rights and freedoms of every single person without distinction. We do not have to list all the commitments to migrants and refugees to which all three of our countries have committed themselves, we believe that they are very well known to you. Like us, you recognize that everyone has the right to preserve their human dignity, to have access to the asylum procedure, and to have the right to the protection of their life and health.

Adherence to these commitments and principles cannot be expected from the regime in Belarus. However, our countries are fundamentally different from the Belarusian regime, which is why we expect our government officials to have completely different behavior, one that is deeply rooted in the morals and principles to which we subscribed after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Your Excellencies, today it is You, Your political leadership, and Your country, from which we expect to be an example of morality, protection of human rights and human dignity of every human being, including people in a migratory situation who find themselves in terrible conditions - and die - at your

borders. You need to show this example, humanity and solidarity on our behalf, on behalf of the European Union and on behalf of the V4 countries, and we urge you to do so.

We call on you to provide people in a migratory situation with the necessary assistance, shelter, access to medical treatment, access to international and non-governmental organizations and access to the asylum procedure.

The four people who died at your border will never be restored to life. But we can still save others who are fleeing on that border and provide them with the security and protection that Poland and other countries of the European Union symbolize for them, and thus prevent another tragedy.

We appeal to you to help them, and we urge you not to be afraid to show humanity and solidarity.

Sincerely yours,

Magda Faltová, Director of the Association for Integration and Migration, Czech Republic

Barbora Meššová, Director of the Human Rights League

Zuzana Številová, holder of the International Women of Courage Award 2016