



SUPREME COURT

of the Republic of Poland

Supreme Court's Spokesman
Michał Laskowski

Warsaw, 23 January 2018

STATEMENT of the Supreme Court's Spokesman

In respect to the article entitled "Prime Minister and Lies About the Judiciary" published on 22 January 2018 in Polish daily newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza and information about the content of the document distributed among foreign journalists in Brussels on 10 January 2018 by the Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki comprised therein, it must be emphasised that the Prime Minister of Polish Government runs a untruthful campaign against the Supreme Court, which is a constitutional body of the Republic of Poland.

It is not true that there still are judges seating on the Supreme Court who were confidential informers of the communist security services. Admittedly, there are judges in the Supreme Court who delivered rulings during the martial law in Poland in 1980's, but it is not true that they these were harsh, politically motivated judgments. It should be notated that each person's guilt must be proved beyond any reasonable doubt, otherwise, they should be presumed innocent. Therefore, should the Prime Minister be in possession of any specific information on judges misbehaviour, he should present it to the public.

It is not true that the Supreme Court came nearly intact from the totalitarian communism era to modern democracy and that almost all of the judges of that time were "considered fit" to continue their service. On the contrary, it must be reminded that in 1990 all of the Supreme Court judges were subjected to a vigorous vetting procedure. As a result, vast majority of judges (80%) were dismissed and replaced by justices appointed solely on merit.

We urge to cease using, especially abroad, unconfirmed generalisations and falsehoods. Not only does it compromise good name of the Supreme Court justices but also is harmful for the reputation of the Supreme Court itself as constitutional body which is part of the same statehood as the Government.

Michał Laskowski, SCJ