

Protest! - Tłumaczenie angielskie

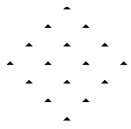
In the Warsaw Ghetto, behind walls cutting them off from the rest of the world, several thousand condemned people await death. For them, there is no hope of rescue, no one to help them. Executioners roam the streets, shooting anyone who dares leave their home. They also shoot at anyone who stands at their window. The streets are strewn with unburied bodies.

The daily quota of victims is 8,000–10,000. Jewish policemen have the responsibility of delivering them into the hands of German executioners. If they fail to do so, they will also perish. Children, who are not strong enough to go by themselves, are loaded onto carts which is so brutal they very few arrive at the ramp alive. Mothers watch in hysteria. The number driven mad with despair and terror equals the number shot dead.

Railway wagons wait at the ramp. The executioners stuff the condemned 150 to each wagon, on the floor of which is a thick layer of lime and chlorine covered in water. The doors to the wagons are sealed. Sometimes, the train leaves immediately after loading. Sometimes, it is moved into a siding where it stands for a whole day, two days... By now, this is of no significance to anyone. In the tightly packed wagon, those who die remain standing shoulder to shoulder with the living, who are slowly dying from the mists of lime and chlorine, a lack of air, a drop of water and food – no one remains alive anyway. Wherever and whenever these death trains arrive at their destination, very few remain alive.

An early demise would be a relief from such agony. The executioners have anticipated this. All the pharmacies within the ghetto confines have been closed to prevent them from providing poisons. There are no weapons. All that remains is to leap out of a window onto the pavement, an action taken by many in order to give their executioners the slip.

What is happening in the ghetto is a repetition of what had been happening over the last half a year in hundreds of bigger and smaller Polish towns. The total number of those killed has already passed one million and it is growing every day. All are perishing – the rich and the poor, the old, women, men, youth and infants. In the name of Jesus and Mary, Catholics are dying just like Orthodox Jews. The crime of being born a Jew is punished by Hitler with the death penalty.



The entire world watches these crimes, the worst in history, and remains silent. The slaughter of millions of defenseless people is met with a universal, portentous silence. The executioners remain silent, not wishing to boast of their deeds. England and America remain silent. Even influential, international Jewry, which is sensitive to anything detrimental to its members, remains silent. Poles also remain silent. Polish politicians, friendly to Jews, restrict themselves to diary notes. Poles antagonistic to Jews declare themselves disinterested in a matter which does not concern them. Dying Jews are surrounded by Pilates washing their hands.

That silence can no longer be tolerated. It is despicable, whatever the reason. One cannot remain passive towards crime. Whoever remains silent in the face of murder becomes an accomplice to that murder. Whoever does not condemn, consents.

Therefore, we, Polish Catholics, speak out. Our feelings towards Jews have not changed. We will continue to consider them as political, economic and idealistic enemies of Poland. Furthermore, we realize that they hate us more than the Germans, that they consider us responsible for their misfortune. Why and on what basis is a mystery of a Jewish soul, however, it is a confirmed fact. Nonetheless, being aware of these feelings, we are not exempted from an obligation to condemn a crime.

We do not wish to be Pilates. We do not have the ability to counteract these German murders actively. We can give no advice. We cannot rescue anyone. However, with our hearts filled with mercy, indignation and terror, we protest.

God demands us to protest – God, who forbids to kill. Our Christian conscience demands that too. Every human being is entitled to love their neighbor. The blood of the defenseless cries for vengeance. Whoever is not with us in this protest is not a Catholic.

At the same time, we protest as Poles. We do not believe that Poland can benefit from these German atrocities – on the contrary. In the stubborn silence of international Jewry, in the efforts of German propaganda to shift blame for the slaughter of Jews onto Lithuanians and... Poles, we sense the planning of an operation hostile to us. We also know how poisonous it is to cause crime. The forced participation of the Polish nation in this bloody event, carried out on Polish soil, can lead to apathy towards harm, sadism and, above all else, a dangerous conviction that it is permissible to murder neighbors with impunity.

Whoever does not understand this and links a proud, free future of Poland with a despicable joy at the misfortune of his neighbor – is therefore neither a Catholic nor a Pole!

Front for the Rebirth of Poland