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July 14, 2016

His Excellency Witold Waszczykowski  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland  
Al. J. Ch. Szucha 23  
Warsaw

Dear Mr. Minister:

At our meeting on July 11, ADL's top leadership discussed with you the importance of historical truth. We expressed our appreciation for President Andrzej Duda's remarks at the commemoration of the Kielce pogrom and earlier this year at the dedication of the Ulma Family museum. At the Ulma Family museum, President Duda noted that the next generation must be taught "the truth about the Holocaust, about what was happening, the truth about the heroism and sometimes the sad truth about the villainy." During our meeting, we pledged to continue our vocal opposition to the use of phrases such as "Polish death camps," which distort the history of the Holocaust, and you assured us that "we should continue to work together and strive to understand historical facts."

The day prior, the ADL delegation participated in the commemoration of the 1941 Jedwabne massacre, where hundreds of Jews were murdered by their Polish Catholic neighbors while the town was under Nazi occupation. We were glad to see representatives of President Duda and Prime Minister Beata Szydlo attend and present memorial wreaths at the ceremony.

Given your commitments in our meeting, President Duda's public remarks, and government representation at the Jedwabne commemoration, you can imagine our shock at hearing the appalling comments of Minister of Education Anna Zalewska in her television interview yesterday with Monika Olejnik. In that interview, Poland's highest education official repeatedly refused to acknowledge that Polish citizens were responsible for killing their Jewish neighbors in Jedwabne and in Kielce. Minister Zalewska's obfuscations about well-established historical truths represent the insidious phenomenon the Polish government should be fighting, not promoting.

As we stated in our meeting, we are deeply concerned at the increasing instances of anti-Semitism in political speech, particularly since early November 2015. In candor, we were disappointed at your dismissive response to these concerns. Minister Zalewska's remarks are appalling in and of themselves, but also enable those who promote the anti-Semitic conspiracy theory that Jews are trying to damage Poland's reputation with false accusations.

**Imagine a World Without Hate®**

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We reiterate our appreciation for recent positive public statements by Poland's leadership at Holocaust-era commemorations. Those public commitments to oppose anti-Semitism and teach future generations the truth about the fate of Jews in Poland make it incumbent on your government to remove any doubts created by Minister Zaleska's comments. We look forward to hearing from you on measures taken in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Greenblatt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jonathan" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Greenblatt".

Jonathan Greenblatt  
CEO and National Director

JG/as

cc: H.E. Ryszard Schnepf, Ambassador of Poland to the United States  
Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland  
Mr. Leslaw Piszewski, President, Union of Jewish Communities in Poland