

Official Press Release dated April 2, 2011, Ottawa.



The Polish National Union in Canada, Branch # 25 in Ottawa and Canadian-Polish Community of Ottawa demand the truth and an international inquiry on the suspicious air crash that occurred on April 10, 2010 near the Smolensk South Airport (Severny) in Russia.

On April 10, 2010 the President of Poland, Lech Kaczynski, was leading a delegation of the highest-level Polish officials to attend memorial ceremonies at Katyn, the site of the execution of 22,000 Polish Prisoners of War by Soviet Regime in 1940.

While approaching the Smolensk - Severny military airport in Russia, Polish Air Force One Tupolev Tu-154 aircraft crashed, killing all 96 aboard, including VIP's and crew.

The long list of VIP's included:

- Polish President Lech Kaczynski and his wife Maria,
- Ryszard Kaczorowski - last Polish President of the Government in Exile (residing in U.K. until Dec 1990),
- NATO officers: six generals (Chief of the General Staff, Chiefs of all types of Polish Forces), and Vice-Admiral (Chief of the Navy)

70 years ago, in 1940, as a consequence of the massacre in Katyn, the majority of potential leaders and members of subsequent resistance to further Soviet occupation of Poland, after the War, were liquidated in one operation.

One year ago, as a consequence of the air crash in 2010 the majority of political and army leaders of the centre-conservative and Polish-patriotic political lobby (the Law and Justice) died instantly. The very movement that stayed on guard of freshly gained sovereignty and Polish independence and was securing close ties between Poland and NATO. As an effect of that air crash, the political power in Poland was transferred to parties with quite different political views. That transformation process was well-organized and happened instantly, within hours and days after the accident took place. The circumstances of that air crash and the political scandals that surround that investigation - or rather the lack of it - create major doubts as to whether that suspicious fatal crash was an accident.

We ask:

- Why the Polish Cabinet and the President did not establish a Polish Inquiry Commission and instead, surrendered all the inquiry to the MAK (Russian Interstate Aviation Committee)?
- Why the Polish Cabinet and the President rejected offers by NATO, United Europe

- and other countries to aid in the inquiry?
- Why, days and weeks after the accident, the remaining pieces of fuselage were chain-sawed and cut into small pieces, windows crashed and most of vital evidence was destroyed?
 - Why for one year both Black Boxes of the Polish Air Force One Airliner were not returned to Poland?
 - Why for one year the wreckage and remaining pieces of the Polish Air Force One Airliner were not returned to Poland?
 - Why half of the almost 60 ton aircraft disintegrated into thousands of unrecognizable pieces and none of the 96 passengers and crew survived after crashing from an altitude of only 8 - 10 meters above the ground? The magnitude of this devastation is inconsistent with the results of other similar crashes as studied by the International Aviation statistics body (75 % of an average survival rate in similar circumstances).
 - Why many bodies and many disconnected body parts were disintegrated to the point of requiring DNA identification?
 - Why the muddy soil does not show the landing and skid evidence from almost 60 ton of fuselage and wings crashing and scrubbing the ground?
 - Why most of the victims' clothes were torn away?
 - Why the remaining pieces of wreckage were kept unprotected, uncovered, exposed to sun rays, wind and rain for over 10 months?
 - What happened to the cockpit which was seen on the scene, in one piece one day after the accident took place?
 - Why weeks after the incident, crowds trampling and looting the unsecured crash site, were able to dig from the mud some cockpit gears and human body parts?
 - How it was possible that thieves, days and weeks after the accident, obtained pass codes to victims' credit cards and banking cards and were able to withdraw cash amounts from banking machines?
 - Why bodies and body parts were returned to Poland in sealed coffins that are never to be opened?
 - Why there is a continuous disinformation and manipulation campaign slandering the victims, pilots and Polish Uniform?

We demand:

- The truth about the accident
- Establishment of an Independent International Inquiry Commission
- All those responsible for disinformation, betrayal, manipulation and action against the Polish State be named and put on trial
- Rehabilitation of those whose names have been slandered after the tragedy
- Support of Macierewicz Parliamentary Inquiry Commission

We, the Polish National Union in Canada, Branch # 25 in Ottawa and Canadian-Polish Ottawa Community fully support The Macierewicz Parliamentary Inquiry Commission, which is the only independent investigation body at this moment.