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Warsaw, 17 August 2020 r.

**Mrs.
Iratxe García PÉREZ
The President of
The Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists and Democrats
In the European Parliament
IXth Cadence**

Madam President!

I represent a non-governmental organization which associates Polish policemen, retired officers and soldiers, currently retired and pensioners of uniformed services. I speak on behalf of people who have devoted the best years of their lives to the service for free and democratic Poland. Nearly 40,000 of them are people harmed by the current Polish authorities. Without a court of law and without proving any guilt, on the basis of collective responsibility, they are deprived of a significant part of their pension entitlements and pushed to the brink of poverty. This also applies to widows and orphans of these policemen and officers. We recorded 60 cases of sudden deaths, including suicide.

This happened after the current ruling majority in Poland passed a law of December 16, 2016 amending the Police Pension Act, adopted in conditions that are bordering on democratic principles of lawmaking, contrary to the Polish Constitution. This was confirmed in 2016 by the then Supreme Court, the Ombudsman, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and the leading authorities of constitutional law in Poland.

At present, due to the subordination of key legal protection bodies, including the Constitutional Tribunal, the structures of common courts and the Supreme Court, to those in power, and the ignoring of decisions of the Supreme Administrative Court, appeal proceedings initiated on the initiative of wronged parties are practically deadlocked. The prospect of their resumption and fair conclusion has become distant or even impossible.

We know that you, as Chairman of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, the second largest political group in the European Parliament focusing on social issues, previously a volunteer in your home country of Spain for a

number of NGOs, are particularly sensitive to the disregard for fundamental rights, including decent social security, which thousands of former officers were deprived of. We also know that as the S&D Group you are committed to defending the rule of law wherever necessary, and the key issue is to defend the integrity of democracy and to create a just and dignified society that includes everyone, without excluding anyone.

The tragic situation of many members of the organisation I represent, citizens of the European Union, caused solely by political objectives, should be of interest to the MEPs of the Group S&D. For this very reason, I would like to ask you to give us all possible help and support in defending the inalienable rights of thousands of former Polish policemen and secret service officers, currently repressed pensioners. These are people of advanced age, ill and often requiring care, who have never committed any reprehensible act.

We would be grateful for using all available political means at the disposal of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, which you chair.

If the description of the situation signalled above needs to be expanded or made more detailed, we are ready to do so immediately. At the same time, I would like to inform you that the general knowledge of what happened in 2016 to former police officers in Poland is held by the Vice President of the Group Bureau S&D - Mr. Marek Belka and the Group members - representatives of Poland: Marek Balt, Robert Biedroń, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Bogusław Liberadzki, Leszek Miller, Sylwia Spurek and Łukasz Kohut.

I count on your sympathy and understanding of the presented problem.

With the utmost respect.

PRESIDENT
Federation of Associations of Uniformed
Services of the Republic of Poland



Zdzisław Czarnecki
