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## President Lukashenko is using brutal force against demonstrators during major anti-government demonstrations in Belarus.

The scale of the demonstrations is unprecedented high for Belarus and triggered by the elections in favor of the long-time leader.



Rafal Jankowski, president of the independent Police Trade Union ZGNZZP (Member of EPU) appealed to the Belarusian Militia officers not to use

violence against the protesters. He also said that ZGNZZP will support those who refuse to comply with the order to use violence against

demonstrators and will be prosecuted for it. These statements have been broadcasted on various TV and radio stations.

Interesting detail is that the Belarusian Minister of Interior stated that the Belarusian Militia is the most human police force in the world.



Here are the links.

<https://nszpz.pl/aktualnosci/minister-spraw-wewnetrznych-bialorusi-odpowiada-na-apel-przewodniczacego-nszpz-policjantow/>

<https://www.racyja.com/sumezhzh/rafal-y-ankouski-nelga-vystupats-supr/>

# INDEPENDENT SELF-GOVERNING POLICE TRADE UNION

## CENTRAL BOARD



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Warsaw, 5 September 2020

*Dear Fellow Militia Officers!*

I am a Polish Police officer, the leader of the Central Board of the Independent Self-governing Police Trade Union – an organization which has represented the interests of Polish Police officers for the last 30 years – therefore I address you, my colleagues, I appeal to you to deeply reflect upon the situation in which the Belarusian nation and the Motherland you serve is at the moment.

Today, you are facing the same situation that we, Polish Police officers – Militia officers at that time, were facing 30 and 40 years ago, when the Polish people have disobeyed the ruling authority. Our colleagues, just like you now, stood opposite the citizens who fought for freedom and democracy. Today, in Belarus, your sisters, brothers and friends stand before you.

Such events are always difficult for officers, who are required to follow orders given by their commanding officers and commandants. Polish Militia officers faced the same dilemma and picked the right side.

Nowadays, Poland is a free, independent country. The Polish Police is in the lead when it comes to most trusted public institutions and Police officers have their own trade union which is free from political influence and independent of ruling powers. All of this was possible because part of those Militia officers back then realized what the principal purpose of their dedicated duty was. It came home to them that they should serve the public, regardless of the retaliatory measures which may have been imposed on them.

The social rights movement initiated by your compatriots, people who love their Motherland, is very likely to win without unnecessary bloodshed and suffering of thousands of people. A lot depends on you. Police officers – Militia officers should serve the public, not the ruling party or the political caciques or secretaries. Leaders will pass away and fall into oblivion. Is it worth risking lives of innocent people for the benefit of some politician? People who go out to protest in the streets are unarmed and mean no harm to anybody. They peacefully manifest their disapproval. Therefore I ask you politely and I warn you; do not use violence, never give false testimony or attest untruth during trial. Do not harm your own nation. Such acts will be fully prosecuted sooner or later. Some time from now, you will be judged accordingly by history and before that you will be judged by your relatives, your family members, friends, neighbors, and most certainly by independent and impartial courts as soon as the ones who now send you out to clash with your compatriots will pass away and end up on the garbage heap of history.

While remembering the struggle which the Polish nation had to go through, which my older Militia colleagues had to go through back in the day and, along with their family members, face government repression just like the “Solidarność” activists did, I am aware that being stuck in a political system that defies free will makes it hard to be brave and act in a respectable manner. If too few of you decide to accomplish this heroic act – you will fail! If the majority of you decide to act – the Belarusian Police and Belarusian Militia officers will go down in history as the ones who gave freedom to the nation, in other words, the right to decide about your country’s future.

As the leader of the Central Board of the Independent Self-governing Police Trade Union (Polish: *NSZZ Policjantów*) I would like to declare that you and your families will have my support if you ever experience repression from the government e.g., for disobeying a direct order to use violence against unarmed civilians. You can rest assured that, in the next few days, I will officially ask the Polish Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration for his aid as well.

*With due respect and Police greetings,*  
Rafał Jankowski



**Member of European Police Union (EPU)**