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L.dz 2787/06

Warsaw, 9 October 2006

The Honourable
Jarosław Kaczyński
Chairman of the
Council of Ministers of
the Republic of Poland

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

In June of this year we sent a letter to Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz regarding the ratification by the Republic of Poland of Protocol No. 14 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The objective of this Protocol is first and foremost to maintain and consolidate the existing control mechanism, including the exceptional role of the European Court of Human Rights. This Protocol will enter into force upon its approval by the Member States of the Council of Europe. We wish to point out that so far it has been ratified by 44 out of the 46 Council of Europe member states. Only two countries: the Russian Federation and the Republic of Poland, have not yet submitted the ratification documents.

Under these circumstances, we feel an obligation to once again call for the Polish government to take steps leading to the ratification of the above mentioned Protocol No. 14. Further delays in doing so will be perceived as an incomprehensible attempt to slow the process of improving the procedures of observing the European Convention on Human Rights.

With highest regards,

On behalf of the Board of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

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Marek Antoni Nowicki
President of the HFHR Board