



**HELŚIŃSKA FUNDACJA PRAW CZŁOWIEKA
HELSINKI FOUNDATION for HUMAN RIGHTS**

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The Honorable
Brigade General Mirosław Kuśmierczak
Chief Commandant of the Polish Border Guard
Niepodległości 100
02-514 Warsaw

Warsaw, August 17th, 2006

Dear General Kuśmierczak,

We would like to ask you to consider establishing the positions of plenipotentiaries for human rights protection within the Border Guard. Art. 9 sec. 5 of the Act of 12 October 1990 on the Border Guard mandates that during the performance of their official duties the officers of the Border Guard must respect human dignity and observe human rights and liberties. We believe that first of all it is necessary to appoint the plenipotentiary of the Chief Commandant of the Border Guard for the Protection of Human Rights. Similar positions already exist within the Polish Police. The person holding this position would perform tasks at BG branches on behalf of the Chief of the Border Guard, such as: identification of difficulties in human rights observance by Border Guard officers, collection and dissemination of best practices in this respect, inspiring the heads of the sections and units of the BG Branches to undertake monitoring and inspection activities in regards to human rights observance. This officer could also initiate activities leading to increasing the level of knowledge of Border Guard officers in the scope of human rights observance at BG branches as well as stations of the Border Guard, cooperation with institutions outside the Ministry of Interior and organizations supporting protection of human rights, as well as monitoring and preparation of the required documentation on the subject of human rights protection. If you were to take into account our suggestion in regards to appointing officers for the abovementioned positions, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights is prepared to provide you with advice and assistance to the best of our abilities.

With sincere regards,

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Marek Antoni Nowicki
President of the HFHR Board