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Warsaw, 7 September 2007

Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Mr. President,

As individuals engaged in human rights advocacy in Poland and, to the extent possible, around the world, we strive to secure a faithful image of our country in diplomatic activities and in the media. Poland is not a country consisting solely of death penalty supporters. Though certain public officials do support the death penalty, the personal views of Poland's citizens on this matter are extremely diverse. The governing Law and Justice party frequently uses arguments voiced by the death penalty supporters. These arguments are challenged by many Polish citizens, including clergy of the Roman Catholic and other churches. These voices, as well as our own voice, should be heard by European Union politicians dealing with the Polish government's opposition to establishing a European Day Against the Death Penalty. In Poland, there is opposition to the "Polish opposition".

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

Yours sincerely,

Marek Antoni Nowicki
President of the Board

