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Donald Tusk
Prime Minister
of the Republic of Poland
Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3
00-583 Warsaw

The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights voices serious concern about recent racist incidents on the Polish football arenas. They confirm the ineffectiveness of the previous actions undertaken not only by the Polish Football Association (PZPN), UEFA, but also by the public institutions such as the Police or the prosecutor office.

Taking these facts into consideration we expect from the Government with special contribution of the Minister of Sports, new approach towards counteracting racism on football stadiums. Firstly, it is absolutely necessary to intensify the pressure on institutions managing the football league to effectively implement the antiracist provisions of the FIFA Disciplinary Code and internal regulations passed by the Polish Football Association. Secondly, we expect increasing the activity of the Police and prosecutor office in combating the racial discrimination. The Polish criminal law provisions against racist offences provide effective instruments to initiate criminal proceedings against persons responsible for racist acts.

Finally, the Government should initiate and support some non-legal actions, including international campaigns against racism such as "Let's kick out racism out of football" coordinated in Poland by "NEVER AGAIN" Association or the campaign "All Different – All Equal" carried out by the Council of Europe.

We hope that the Prime Minister as a person well-known as a football fan will react with strong determination on the problem of racism in football as racist incidents on Polish stadiums have a detrimental effect on the perception of our country in Europe and all over the world.

On behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights,

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Danuta Przywara
President of the Board

