



ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

**Statement of the Administrative Committee
of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
in the Republic of Poland,
on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz camp**

Today's 75th anniversary of the liberation of the German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau reminds us that no ideology involving hurt of another human being, must ever be placed higher than God's simple commandment: "Do not kill."

On January 27, 1945 when the Red Army liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau, 7000 prisoners were saved from death. Those, who had not yet been killed or transferred to another camp.

Liberation also prevented hiding of a terrible crime that Nazi Germany was seeking to obliterate. In less than 5 years since the camp was established, over 1.1 million innocent victims lost their lives. Many Jewish of different nationalities. About 300,000 of those were killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau were the Polish Jews.

Due to the enormity of the crime committed in this very camp, it has become a symbol itself and the International Holocaust Remembrance Day marks the day of its liberation.

On the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Board of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Republic of Poland, on behalf of all church members, would like to pay tribute in memory of all victims of this terrible crime.

Auschwitz-Birkenau is one of the darkest pages in human history. This is the place where, using biblical symbolism, the blood of our brothers and sisters innocently shed on those grounds calls to God and to us. To us – to be remembered, and to God - for justice at the Last Judgment.



ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

That is why we want to remember these events, but also remember the fact that everyone, irrespective of their skin color, origin, or appearance, is worthy of respect as a child of God. Let us boldly oppose any ideologies that proclaim violence against other people as necessary for achieving their goals. Every time humanity forgets this, terrible tragedies happen in the world. Without this memory, history may repeat again.

Polish Adventists can also remember that on June 24, 1981, the camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau was visited by the president of the World Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Neal C. Wilson. After the visit he wrote that all he could do was kneel and bow his head in silence and sadness. What he felt was also anger, compassion, deep regret, forgiveness and hope. He asked himself when people finally learn to love and respect each other, freed from the feelings of dominance because of race, nationality, language, skin or ethnic origin. He urged us to use our moral influence to prevent this tragedy from happening again.

Therefore, today's anniversary of the liberation of KL Auschwitz-Birkenau should remind every Seventh-day Adventist, but also to every Christian, that when times come that we are ordered to hurt and kill, then we need to listen to God, rather than people, as it says in the book of Acts and God says, "Don't kill."

Administrative Committee
of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
in the Republic of Poland