



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים (ע"ר)  
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS (R.A.)

July 16, 2013

The Honorable Marek Biernacki  
Minister of Justice  
Republic Poland

*via: e.mail*

Dear Minister Biernacki,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists views with concern recent news reports according to which the Constitutional Tribunal of the Republic of Poland has forbidden the slaughter of animals under Jewish and Islamic law, even though for some 15 years an arrangement between the Government of Poland and the Jewish Community in Poland has permitted the slaughter of animals in a manner consistent with traditional Jewish practice. Further, adhering to the spirit of the Constitution of the European Union obligates the Republic of Poland to permit freedom of religion and freedom of religious observance.

Last year, our Association held a conference in Lausanne, Switzerland, whose theme was "Religion in a Multicultural Society." Recommendations adopted at the conference are appended to this letter. We would draw your attention in particular to resolutions one through three, which emphasize the importance of religious freedom that permits a minority in a country to live according to its beliefs.

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists calls on the Republic of Poland to again consider this matter, and to correct the injustice caused to both, Muslims and Jews, as a result of the decision of the Constitutional Tribunal.

Yours very truly,

Irit Kohn  
President