



**Union Internationale des Avocats**  
International Association of Lawyers  
Unión Internacional de Abogados

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🌐 Rassembler les avocats du monde • Bringing Together the World's Lawyers • Reunir a los abogados del mundo 🌐

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**Jerome ROTH**

*President*

*Président*

*Presidente*

Paris, January 11, 2020

**Prof. Krystian Markiewicz**

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**Re: March of 1000 Robes**

Dear Presidents Markiewicz and Pagone:

I am writing in my capacity as President of UIA (International Association of Lawyers), the world's oldest, most multi-cultural international law association. We recently learned that the Polish judiciary has called for the legal profession throughout Europe to join in the March of 1000 Robes - Marsz Tysiąca Tóg - on January 11, 2020, to defend the Rule of Law in Poland and, in particular, the independence of the judiciary.

We respectfully request that your organizations express to all involved UIA's unwavering support of this critical initiative. UIA further asks that you express its full solidarity with the Polish judges who have shown such courageous determination and commitment to preserving their independence and defending the essential principles of their profession, which are essential to maintaining the Rule of Law in Poland.

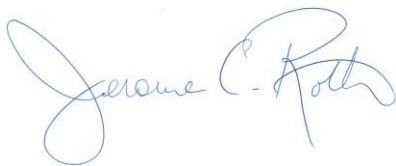
UIA also encourages the Polish and the international legal communities to do all they can to demonstrate their support for the efforts of the Polish judiciary to defend itself from attacks on its independence. In that regard, we commend and take pride in the commitment shown by several of UIA's member associations, which have joined in the request by Polish judges that the European legal community participate in the January 11 march.

Over the last several years, our organisation has observed with great concern the so-called judicial "reform" which began in Poland in 2015. UIA has repeatedly warned Polish authorities that the "reform" posed a grave threat to the Rule of Law. We strongly urged the Polish government to reconsider its position and to ensure full respect of the principles of the Rule of Law, including the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary. To that end, the UIA Governing Board, at our 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congress in Luxembourg in November 2019, adopted a resolution, which we attach, affirming our commitment to the protection of the Rule of Law and the independence of the judiciary in Poland.

UIA firmly believes that the legal community must speak out with a single and resonant voice to insist that Polish authorities cease their assault on the judiciary and immediately implement the binding judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union. UIA also encourages the Polish government to comply with the international treaties to which it is party, as required by law.

Please rest assured that UIA is dedicated to the principle that lawyers throughout the world play a critical role as privileged guardians of citizens' rights and defenders of the Rule of Law, including the independence of the judiciary. We will do all in our power to continue to promote and defend the Rule of Law in Poland and elsewhere.

Respectfully,



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**Jerome Roth**  
**UIA President**

C.c.

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