

On September 17-19, 2021, the Extraordinary Meeting of IUSTITIA Delegates and a Gala on the 31st Anniversary of IUSTITIA took place in Gdańsk. Due to the restrictions related to Covid-19, this celebration was postponed by a year, so we celebrated the 31st, not the 30th anniversary.

The climate of this celebration is best reflected in the words of the President of IUSTITIA, prof. Krystian Markiewicz delivered at the opening of the celebration: "IUSTITIA will never abandon people whose rights are being violated. We are not indifferent to what is happening in Turkey, Belarus or Aghanistan. IUSTITIA embraces with her long arm and supports everyone for who's law, freedom and civil liberties are valuable ... If these values are at stake, IUSTITIA – Ancient Roman Godess will use her sword. This weapon is not only for decoration - our 30-year-old Association constantly has a sword with her and will not hesitate to use it and fight for freedom and the rule of law ... ". During the celebration, apart from Prof. Krystian Markiewicz, the following guests gave speeches:

Ms Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, Mayor of Gdańsk, famous for her defence of municipal self-government;

Mr Adam Strzembosz, the first retired President of the Supreme Court after the fall of communism (1990–1998);

Mr Lech Wałęsa, an icon of the Resistance and the First President of Poland after communism has fallen (1990–1995);

Ms Sława Rafalak, councilor of Gdańsk and member of the Committee for the Defence of Democracy;

Mr Jerzy Owskiak, a long-term organiser of the "Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity" Foundation, which is the largest charitable organisation in Poland.

Among the numerous foreign guests, the speeches were delivered by:

Mr José Igreja Matos, Justice of the Porto Court of Appeal, Portugal and President of the International Association of Judges, and

Mr Kees Sterk, a senior judge, Professor of Administration of European Justice, and former president of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary.

During the ceremony, IUSTITIA's prizes were also awarded in the following categories:

Lawyer defender of the rule of law - Yavuz Aydin;

Defender of the rule of law who is not a lawyer - Hania Waśko, Managing Director, Founder of Big Picture / PR & Public affairs;

Journalist - Mariusz Jałoszewski, from the editorial office of Oko Press - an independent website.

The celebration closed with a very interesting debate on Freedom.