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Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
of the United Nations
United Nations 405E42nd St
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Dear Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations,

I am writing this letter from Poland, as I am deeply concerned with the increasing number of armed conflicts in different regions in the world, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Ukraine, to name but a few. The conflicts entail bloodshed and deaths of innocent people. And it was not so long ago that the world pompously celebrated the end of the year 2000 and the beginning of 2001, entering the 21st century sharing new hopes and dreams. Only a few years have passed since that day, but in many parts of the world blood is shed, people die and the scale of those tragic events causes serious concern.

Politicians from the countries indirectly or directly involved in those conflicts, instead of taking measures to solve the problems peacefully, use words of cold war rhetoric, forging ahead into a dead end.

After all, serious politicians, regardless of their country of origin (this refers also to politicians from Poland and the European Union, the USA and Russia) should not additionally heat up the tensions, rattling the proverbial saber, however innocent the saber may seem taking the form of ill-considered words. Responsible politicians should engage in finding a peaceful solution to even the smallest causes of a conflict. Democracy does not exempt anyone from thinking and taking action, i.e. from the responsibility for not only the country we live in, but also for the entire community and even for the entire world we live in.

What I am also concerned about is the over-passivity of the competent bodies of the United Nations. Why do the structures of ONZ designated for this purpose not take immediate and due measures? In times of highly-developed tele-transmission, relevant resolutions can very quickly and effectively be outvoted, without the need for representatives of all member states to gather at the headquarters of the United Nations. It was not so long ago that soldiers who served under the white and blue flag participated in peaceful operations in various parts of the world. They separated feuding parties of the conflict, protecting civilian population. People around the world feel great respect for Blue Helmets, serving under the flag of the United Nations. Therefore, all member states should ensure that international peacekeeping forces of the United Nations are professionally trained and equipped, ready for a quick response to emergency conflict situations, i.e. immediately after adoption of a relevant resolution by the General Assembly or Security Council by sending a peacekeeping mission to the region of the source of conflict. At the same time, representatives of the United Nations should carry out negotiations with participation of divided parties aiming at resolving the conflict. It is wrong that permanent members of the UN's Security Council - i.e. members with the veto power - are themselves involved in wars and conflicts. I believe and I am

surely not the only one, that a country which does not obey the international law should not sit in the Security Council and to top it all, have the bizarre, as for the 21st century, veto power.

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

It is time to begin the reform of the United Nations, which has been announced so many times before. I am writing about the passivity of the UN, since many countries that belong to this organization, as well as individual Secretaries General have put forward reform proposals. In order not to give a groundless opinion, I present an outline of proposals found in the UN materials; (...)

Reform of the United Nations:

(...) Effectiveness and rationalization must become the pillars of the United Nations so that the Organization can meet new challenges. We must simplify and streamline our administrative procedures.

The reform is also necessary, because the United Nations and its personnel must adapt to new needs. By guaranteeing the highest standards, integrity and reliability, we are able to show that we are fully responsible before all Member States and people across the world.

We need to strengthen the ability of the United Nations so that it can serve its function in the best way possible in terms of conflict prevention, establishment, maintenance and building of peace. These are integral parts of the entire goal and our attitude to those processes must be fully integrated, coordinated and comprehensive. By increasing our capabilities in the scope of preventive diplomacy and supporting sustainable peacekeeping processes, we have created long-term solutions and we will be able to more effectively respond to conflict situations. (...) Is it not high time to implement those reforms in the UN?

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The letter I am addressing to you, I am also sending to the leaders of the five permanent members of the UN's Security Council. The leaders of the five permanent members of the UN's Security Council should join the reform of the UN's structure, supporting your actions so that they can fulfill anticipated hopes. I believe that the first step that those countries should take is to waive the archaic veto power so that this provision could be removed from UN's documents without any obstacles.

In order to promote the principles of democracy, example should come from above, hence also from the United Nations, an organization that brings together all countries of the world. It is unacceptable that while democracy is proclaimed, the stronger party dictates the conditions for others, doing it, to top it all, in the name of the law. As a consequence, the same practices are repeated by some countries in the international arena. If the United Nations is to duly serve its function, none of its member states should have the veto power. Today the five permanent members of the UN's Security Council (the United States, the People's Republic of China, Great Britain, France and Russia) are entitled to such power - 18th-century power. Poles know very well what the Liberum Veto led to in our country at the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century. (...) - Over the period from the 18th to 20th century Poland suffered a lot of humiliation inflicted by its partitioners, World War I, World War II, and finally, the 50-year-long communist regime. I know what freedom and peace means, but freedom and peace are given to us, which is a fact John Paul II liked to remind us about. Numerous conflicts would not have taken place had it not been for arms and ammunition trade conducted by many countries around the world. If we seriously consider peace and anti-terrorist measures, this problem must, first and foremost, be taken into account. This, however, cannot happen immediately, as if by magic. We should first reach out to the corporations and any types of companies that produce arms, ammunition and any kind of military equipment. They must know that they are not endangered by insolvency or bankruptcy and the people who work there must know that as a result of such a decision they will not lose their jobs. The whole international community must join these changes so that the companies could step by step change the sector of their operation, adapting to production of other goods that the world needs, using knowledge, experience and rich potential that such companies have at their disposal. **A few years ago *The New York Times* published an article entitled: "Weapons sales worldwide rise to 30 billion dollars"** An extract is provided below; (...) - Who in 1999 was the biggest supplier of such a high amount of arms? The leading supplier of weapons is the United States, which sold weapons

worth 11.8 billion dollars. The second position is taken by Russia - which earned close to half of this amount. However, this country has almost doubled its arms sales over the last year. It is followed by Germany, China, France, Great Britain and Italy. The above-mentioned article says: "As in the past, around two thirds of the produced arms have been sold to developing countries". (...) There is no need to comment here. The permanent members of the UN's Security Council as well as other member states should ask themselves a question of what the words - "Let us beat swords into ploughshares" mean to them. Before the UN's headquarters there is the famous monument representing a man beating his sword into a ploughshare. It was made by a Russian sculptor Yevgeny Vuchetich in 1958. The dialogue that serves co-existence of all countries in the world is not an easy art. Leaders of all countries in the world, currently in power, should know that in different regions of the world, as a result of wars and subsequent political decisions, national borders have been established often without taking into account opinions of the people who live in those areas. Very often people of different nationalities have been deported, sent or resettled to places completely foreign to them. An example of such penal exiles and deportations in Europe is the faraway Siberia. Many of the exiles never came back to their homelands, no matter how much they missed their family roots. Years have passed, their children set up their own families and started to treat the places where they were born and live now as their homeland. They do, however, return to the memories heard in their grandparents' stories. If they were able to start their lives next to their indigenous neighbors, no one from the outside of the community has the right to destroy that. Therefore, it is very crucial for national minorities living in different countries of the world to be able to enjoy freedom and use the rights to which indigenous people are entitled. This mixture of nationalities includes also soldiers and their families relocated in every country controlled by the Soviet Union. Soldiers simply received an order and did not have a choice. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union a large part of those soldiers together with their families stayed in those countries and live there now, together with the descendants of exiles and indigenous people of those countries. Thus, no political party should divide those communities and lead to armed conflicts because of that. All of those diverse national minorities should be helped so that their rights are exercised in a democratic way and with their participation. After all, they are not to be blamed for this situation caused by historical complexity, which arose as a result of a few wars and political decisions. All such issues should be resolved by a sustainable dialogue. If Polish people were able to forgive the Germans for the atrocities of the Second World War (and the first step was made by the Polish Episcopate, for which it was strongly criticized at that time), it is also possible to establish peaceful relations between Poland and present-day Russia, Russia and the entire European Union, and also Russia and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which were named this way after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Every person is good by nature and can manifest their goodness. It happens that some political systems distort and break human conscience, therefore such practices should be called by their real name. At this point, I would like to mention pure human goodness I heard about from my wife's late father. Let me quote a short fragment also available on my website www.pracaludzka.pl;

(...) Coming back to the Katyn massacre, my wife's father was lucky to escape from the Soviet's captivity right before the transport of captives by a train. He was helped by Russians, regular people, who were able to see the distortions of the system.

In the photo and document gallery tab I uploaded a military service book of my wife's father and in the "aktualności" ("news") tab there is a short explanation regarding the Smolensk crash from 2010.

(...) Coming back to the letter, I am deeply concerned about the fact that the leaders of many countries cannot normally communicate with one another, and after all, it was to them that citizens of their countries entrusted with their own safety.

Therefore, like so many other regular people, I deplore the bloodshed in Ukraine and other countries. However, it is not Germany and France that should solve this conflict, at the same time taking care of their own interest, but the UN. After all, Ukraine had partially democratic government and president. Why did they not choose the path of a further sustainable dialogue and consensus after signing the negotiated agreement with the former president Yanukovich from 21st

February 2014? The opposition could have at that time prepared its society for real free elections. They should have prepared, like in Poland in 1989, a comprehensive base for the electoral commissions. Such commissions should be represented by all political options to properly supervise the elections, thus, preventing fraud. After all, Mrs. Tymoshenko's government governed before. Was everything done for people, what happened to the freedom they managed to achieve?

Representatives of the European Union, the USA and Poland visited the barricades at the Independence Square in Kiev to take pictures, but they did not join the due dialogue that would aim at achieving a compromise and solving the growing conflict. It is sad, because people die now and it is becoming more and more difficult to reach a compromise. Nevertheless, it is crucial to conduct negotiations in order to reach a compromise.

To summarize, let me make it clear, the current generation of Russians and President Vladimir Putin cannot be blamed for the complexities of the past in this world region. It is a shame, that problems of Russians living in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States are not resolved at a negotiating table. After all, those communities should run in elections to the local government and elections to the parliament of a given country. Since the situation is tense, democratic elections should be supervised by institutions delegated only and exclusively by the UN. No-one can foment liberation movements using violence, which is on the verge of terrorism. Also the theory of little green men armed with weapons in their hands and expensive military equipment, including heavy weapons, cannot be used as an excuse. If such actions do occur, one should be courageous enough to tell the truth. Otherwise, it may lead to a situation similar to the Balkan conflict. Since we consider a man of the 21st an intelligent person, this intelligence should be used bearing in mind the history of this region.

Leaders of all nations must act in a reasonable way. Under no circumstances should we allow for nuclear weapons (wherever they are located) to fall into the wrong hands of separatists, terrorists or other irresponsible social groups. It must involve unconditional cooperation of all UN countries in the name of the entire mankind living on the planet called Earth.

Saint John Paul II's wish was to visit Russia, unfortunately, his dream never came true. Perhaps today's relations between Poland and Russia, but also Russia with the entire world would be different. John Paul II met the leaders of Russia - Mr. Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and Vladimir Putin in Vatican. He truly loved Russia and was concerned about its problems. He believed in spiritual revival of this country. John Paul II was worried about the fact that the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church was not very good. He wanted Europe to breathe with both lungs. A lot of Russians remembered the Polish Pope also a reliable friend of not only Russia, but also the Orthodox Church. None of the planned visits of John Paul II to Russia came into effect, since representatives of the Orthodox Church did not reach a consensus and did not give a consent for such a visit. But in fact, it was thanks to the changes initiated by John Paul II that the Russian Orthodox Church was able to leave the underground and enjoy the freedom, since at the time of Stalin, Brezhnev and Khrushchev they existed in the deep underground. At the end of the World Youth Day in Częstochowa in 1991 John Paul II met young people who arrived from the Commonwealth of Independent State that were established after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The youth from those countries prayed for peace and for that purpose they used rosaries made of a regular string. John Paul II knew the reality of those times and encouraged young people to pray and lead a sustainable dialogue for the benefit of everyone. We should not forget about that, since a lot of people with Russian roots live in the former Republics of the Soviet Union. Many of them ended up there as a result of political decisions, of which I have mentioned before. The then governing authorities of the Soviet Union resettled also families of soldiers, their children were born and many of the set up their own families. What is important now is for all of those people to live together, and no conflict among them should be fueled. Evil should be overcome with good.

The root cause of many of those conflicts is the prevailing social injustice, even though this fact was expressly stated in the historic document from 1944, which reads: (...) "On 10 May 1944 in Philadelphia when the world still struggled with Nazi Germany, during the International Labor Conference a document was adopted, in which a very important statement was made: "**Universal**

and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice”. Since 1946 this declaration has become a part of the constitution of the International Labor Organization. However, strangely enough, in the recent years the International Labor Organization passes over very important problems which concern working people of the 21st century”. Many conflicts in the world would not have happened if the “mighty of this world” remembered about those basic principles of social justice. All questions related to the work ethos and social justice were mentioned by St. John Paul II in his encyclical **ON HUMAN WORK**. John Paul II was about to publish this encyclical on 15 May 1981, but the assassination attempt made it impossible. The encyclical was published only after he left hospital on 14 September 1981. I believe that the Encyclical should constitute a sort of a moral code for those in power, employers and unionists across the world. **At the UN John Paul II stressed a lot the importance of proper communication**. I will now quote fragments of John Paul II’s speech delivered before the United Nations General Assembly on 5 October 1995 at the golden jubilee of this organization on 5 October 1995. The entire speech in English is probably available in the UN’s archives, nevertheless, I found it on the following website; <http://www.holyseemission.org/about/john-paul-speech-at-the-un.aspx> (...)

Ladies and Gentlemen! It is an honor for me to have the opportunity to address this international Assembly and to join the men and women of every country, race, language and culture in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Organization. (...) On the threshold of a new millennium we are witnessing an extraordinary global acceleration of that quest for freedom which is one of the great dynamics of human history. This phenomenon is not limited to any one part of the world; nor is it the expression of any single culture. Men and women throughout the world, even when threatened by violence, have taken the risk of freedom, asking to be given a place in social, political, and economic life which is commensurate with their dignity as free human beings. This universal longing for freedom is truly one of the distinguishing marks of our time. (...) The moral dynamics of this universal quest for freedom clearly appeared in Central and Eastern Europe during the non-violent revolutions of 1989. Unfolding in specific times and places, those historical events nonetheless taught a lesson which goes far beyond a specific geographical location. For the non-violent revolutions of 1989 demonstrated that the quest for freedom cannot be suppressed. It arises from a recognition of the inestimable dignity and value of the human person, and it cannot fail to be accompanied by a commitment on behalf of the human person. (...) As we face these enormous challenges, how can we fail to acknowledge the role of the United Nations Organization? Fifty years after its founding, the need for such an Organization is even more obvious, but we also have a better understanding, on the basis of experience, that the effectiveness of this great instrument for harmonizing and coordinating international life depends on the international culture and ethic which it supports and expresses.

Let me note it one more time, John Paul II said that we need to learn how to communicate...

An informed debate is always needed, it is good if such a debate is initiated in good faith by a country which considers itself a superpower in financial or military sense. Such a country surely gains recognition of the entire international community.

Dear Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations,

Dear Leaders of the Countries to which this letter is addressed,

Let me mention a few words about the 70th anniversary of the end of the World War II. Celebrating the victory over fascism without drawing any specific conclusions concerning peace does not change anything. And isn’t a celebration arranged in a way to highlight the military power and arms used to kill people a parody of the celebration of the end of war, the war which took such a heavy toll on lives of so many civilians and soldiers. I am not just referring to the celebrations in Russia, but also in other countries, but the worst fact is celebration for the sake of celebrating, everyman for himself, i.e. no reflection, meditation and drawing of conclusions. After all, people doomed people this fate. This day should be a day of common international reflection and meditation devoted to victims of fascism and gratitude to all soldiers who lost their lives in this terrible war. Perhaps it

should be a joined international tribute to the killed, full of reflection and solemnity, honoring at the same time those witnesses of the war atrocities that are still among us.

To conclude this long letter, let me quote short extracts from my book entitled **CO DLA CIEBIE POLSKO, KAŻDY JESZCZE ZROBIĆ MOŻE?** (*What could everyone still do for you, Poland?*) from the chapter entitled;

“Find an alternative for arms factories if we seriously consider peaceful coexistence of all countries in the world”.

(...) - It is a task for the entire international community. Peaceful coexistence is the basis of harmonious economic development of every country as well as economic cooperation between individual nations. I would like to point out some aspects of this complex issue. We should answer the question whether everyone really treats the problem with full responsibility. A particular role is to be played by the wealthiest countries in the world. However, all states belonging to the United Nations should finally think about where this spiral of armament, sponsored by affluent countries, is leading. They are often “hostages of” military companies, coming up with more and more technologically advanced military equipment. However, used weapons, including chemical weapons, are sold by those countries to others, often very poor countries, since for the alleged prestige they are ready to take part in arms race. The mighty of this world suddenly wake up when the situation starts to get out of control. Isn't it cynicism and hypocrisy?”. Governments of individual countries must develop a plan of reorganization of those companies so that they could turn towards a different business activity. After all, they could produce heavy building equipment, agricultural machines or develop solutions for obtaining pure electric and thermal energy, focus on searching for drinking water, build hospitals, roads, bridges, tunnels, subways, etc. There are so many good things to be done in every part of the world. Nevertheless, it requires strong will of the entire international community, cooperation of the UN, NATO and many other organizations. Even in Poland when some factories that produced military equipment started to lose orders and their financial standing deteriorated, trade unions went on strike. Also the union famous for its interpersonal solidarity ideals, i.e. “NSZZ Solidarność” protested. The cost of new military technologies is increasing. Many countries are not able to bear this burden anymore. They incur debts becoming “hostages” of military companies. And this turns into a vicious circle. Over many centuries people have been trying to make their work less onerous to live an easier and better life. We could say that the same idea was shared by Alfred Nobel who in 1867 patented dynamite and invented a detonator and a fuse. Dynamite very quickly contributed to making construction of tunnels, channels and then also mines easier. We could therefore state that every invention can be used for the benefit of mankind or for the purposes of degrading a human being. I am writing this to point it out that although dynamite helped workers in their daily tasks, together with other explosives, it became the cause of death of many innocent people. The civilized world of the 21st century should one more time think it all through.

(...) Helplessness and injustice can push people into committing terrible acts. Therefore, global peacekeeping organizations - under the leadership of the United Nations - having noticed the beginning of a conflict, must immediately bring as many representatives of interested parties as possible to the negotiating table. We cannot allow for fomenting conflicts, it should not be done by arms producing companies or agents selling weapons. There would not have been so many drastic terrorist attacks if such organizations had not been purchasing arms or other lethal materials from somebody. I am writing this letter, hoping that the Polish government will never again, without the consent or a clear request of the United Nations, send our soldiers on a military mission to another country. **Let me also quote another fragment from the book, which concerns my letters sent in 1990 during military operations of the USA in the Persian Gulf under the code name “Desert Storm”.** They were addressed to the President of the USA – George Bush, Secretary General – Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and the President of Iraq – Saddam Hussein.;

(...) - In this war, which according to decision-makers was supposed to be a short operation,

soldiers from many countries died and are still dying. Also Polish soldiers died. Before the invasion Poland was a country that could unconditionally be trusted. Before the war in Iraq, Polish troops participated not only in peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the United Nations.

*I am writing this letter to you from a faraway country of Poland. I am writing it, hoping, that you will understand my intentions. (...) I believe that through this heartfelt letter I will convince you to make a decision to withdraw the Iraqi army from Kuwait. (...) War leads to enormous destruction, soldiers sent to fight die, not to mention innocent people and children. (...) Military equipment costs billions of dollars and can instantly annihilate, ruin houses, temples, killing people and animals. There are countries and hence also people, who grow rich in the countries where war is waged. Those people will never have to fight like regular soldiers. All they care about is money. (...) We, Christians, have a very smart Commandment of Love: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and love your neighbor as thyself." Therefore, please think about those who are closest to you, first about your fellow countrymen, Iraqis, then Arabs from Kuwait as well as American, English and other soldiers sent to that war. They are there, because the so-called "mighty of the world" decided so for them (...). Please remember that God exists, although the Arabs may call Him other name, and so do Indians, Europeans, but it is the same God, Father of the Universe(...). I am sending the letter through the Iraqi Ambassador to Poland". - **(the end of the quotes from my book).***

Dear Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations,

Dear Leaders of the Countries to which this letter is addressed,

I kindly ask you to treat this letter concerning peace in the world with full understanding and seriousness. What I am asking you is for all of you to begin negotiations regarding the reforms of due service of the United Nations.

I have commissioned translation of this text into English and Russian to a translation agency, as my knowledge of these languages is limited, to prevent unintentional distortion of the message of this letter and thoughts expressed in it, which could not be well received.

Yours faithfully,

Zenon Jasiński

Copies to the permanent members of the UN's Security Council.

- President of the USA Barack Obama
- President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping
- Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Cameron
- President of France Francois Holland
- President of Russia Vladimir Putin