

“NEVER AGAIN” ASSOCIATION



“LET’S KICK RACISM OUT OF STADIUMS” CAMPAIGN

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MONITORING OF RACISM AND CHAUVINISM SYMPTOMS ON POLISH FOOTBALL STADIUMS

September 2009 – October 2009

(Part I)

Year 2009

SEPTEMBER 2009

MŁAWA. On the 5th of September, during the Fourth League match between MKS Mławianka Mława and **Bug Wyszków** in Mazovian Northern Group, the Nazi-fans of the visitors and the supporting "fans" of **MKS Ciechanów** displayed a flag with a Celtic cross, a racist symbol of White Power. At the insistence of the observer from Mazovian Football Association, the banner was removed during half-time. However, after a dozen or so minutes it was unfurled once again - this time the observer interrupted the match and threatened to end it early. In response to the demand, the "fans" took down all flags and stopped cheering.

ŻUROMIN. On the 5th of September, some xenophobic incidents took place before Fourth League match **Wkra Żuromin vs. Hutnik Warszawa** in Mazovian Northern Group, caused by a group of racist "fans" from the capital city. After a short brawl, the group took their places in the section of the stands designated for the home team fans and deployed two xenophobic flags - one which read "White Korps", a combination of English word "white" and German "korpus", which has explicit racist context, also because of the accompanying banner with Celtic cross, a racist symbol of White Power. In effect, the observer from Mazovian Football Association refused to begin the match unless the group moved to proper section. When they were successfully moved after some 10 minutes, they did not stop to brawl with local fans, known for their active support for the campaign "Let's Kick Racism Out of Stadiums", until the very end of the game.

KIELCE. On the 6th of September, the local supplement to "Gazeta Wyborcza" reported about an enormous racist slogan of Korona Kielce "fans", placed near the major entry road to



Kielce from Cracow, which read "Złocisto Krwiści Fani Rasiści" (Golden-Blooded Racist Fans) and was more than 10 metres in length. The

slogan is perfectly visible from the windows of trains entering and leaving the city. This way it became the shameful mark of the city. President of the Association of Korona Kielce Fans stated that he did not know anything about the slogan. It is rather hard to believe, considering the fact

that a picture of the slogan appeared in the magazine "To My Kibice" (**It's Us Fans**) which sympathizes with neo-fascist "fans". It was also mentioned in the Internet forum of Korona fans. The words were painted on the concrete wall on the back of a property at Krakowska Street. The only positive fact about the situation was that someone tried to smear the word "Racist" with black paint. The owner of the property claimed that he found out about the slogan's content just then. However, he mentioned that 3 or 4 months earlier, young boys had come to ask him if they could paint the slogan "Golden-Blooded Fans" ("Złocisto Krwiści Fani") and that he had agreed, because every now and then various slogans like "Jude raus" were painted on that wall. Moreover, he had seen the project. The authors of the slogan asked him to sign it, because they did not want to get into trouble with the police.

SOSNOWIEC. On the 12th of September, during the football match between **Cracovia Kraków** and Arka Gdynia in the 6th round of the First League, racist "fans" of the home team stirred up some anti-Semitic incidents. They were singing xenophobic slogans and songs, "Jude, Jude, Jede... aaaa Łódź" among others. On the 17th of September League Committee ordered the club from Cracow to pay a fine of seven thousand zlotys as a result of the incidents.

OLSZTYN. On the 16th of September, during the Second League Eastern Group match **OKS Stomil 1945 Olsztyn** vs. Stal Rzeszów several neo-fascists appeared in the group of Varian fans supporting the home team. During the so-called *ultras' presentation* (presentation of the group of club supporters responsible for visual setting), a banner with the so-called *falanga*, the image of a hand holding a sword - the symbol of Polish extreme right wing, used by Polish prewar fascists, for example from **Obóz Narodowo-Radykalny „Falanga”** (National-Radical Camp



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RZESZÓW. On the 16th of September, during the match of Second Football League in Eastern Group between **Resovia Rzeszów** and Jeziorak Iława local "fans" and members of **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski** (National Rebirth of Poland) joined forces to carry out an operation. They displayed a banner on the fence surrounding the pitch, saying „17.09.39r. - zdradziecki cios w plecy!” (17.09.39 - treacherous stab in the back!) with a *falanga* hanged nearby, the image of a hand holding a sword - the symbol of Polish extreme right wing, used by Polish prewar fascists, for example from **Obóz Narodowo-Radykalny „Falanga”** (Nationalist-Radical Camp "Falanga") and by the contemporary **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski** (National Rebirth of Poland), party recognized as neo-fascist. Despite the obvious xenophobic message carried by that symbol, the flag stayed unfurled throughout the whole match.

ŁÓDŹ. On 17th September, a racist scandal arose during the First League (second actually) match **LKS Łódź** vs. **Flota Świnoujście**. A Flota player, Nigerian Charles Nwaogu punched his team member **Damian Staniszewski** twice in the face. Afterwards he claimed he did so because his fellow attack player said to him "podaj czarnuchu je...ny" ("pass it, you f...ing nigger"). The referee immediately showed him red card. The Nigerian went to the locker room as ordered (see the picture), but after the match he didn't hide the reason he had attacked his colleague. Staniszewski was taken off the pitch in 74th minute and run to the bus after the match. The coach of Flota, **Petr Nemeč**, tried to ignore the whole incident saying "Damian only said to Charles «You coon»" (sic!). 19-year-old Nwaogu came to Poland in 2004. He was a junior player in



Polonia Warszawa, and played for Znicz Pruszków and Odra Opole. He ended up in Świnoujście in the summer of 2009.

KIELCE. On the 19th of September, during the football match between **Korona Kielce** and Śląsk Wrocław in the 7th round of First League, local "fans" displayed a homophobic banner which read „WKS, RTS, BKS, wszystkie gejowskie style zostają w waszym tyle” („WKS, RTS, BKS, all gay styles stay in your behind”). Disregarding regulations, an observer representing the Polish Football Association didn't order to take off the insulting banner. Hatred of homosexuals and the usage of vulgar synonyms of the word "gay" is commonplace on national sports arenas.



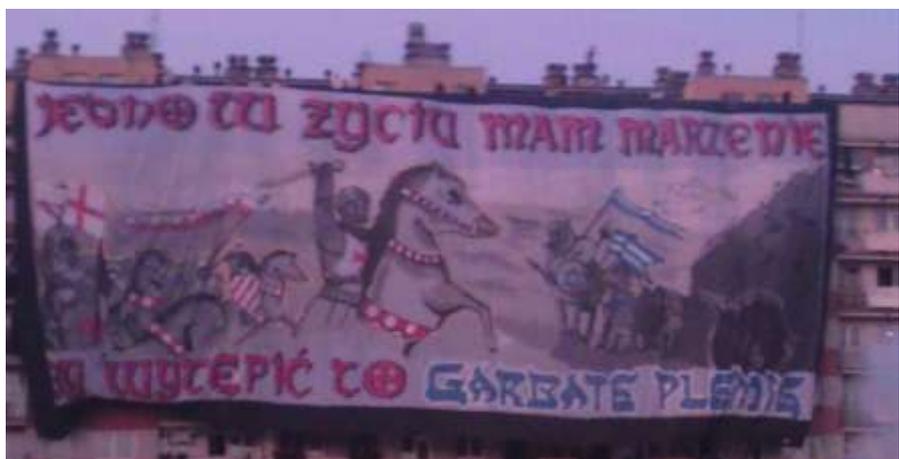
WARSZAWA. On the 22nd of September, **Grzegorz Lato**, president of **Polish Football Association**, gave an interview for the media on the topic of his probable meeting with the former Polish national coach, Leo Beenhakker, with whom he parted in a scandalous way. He summed up his statement saying "In the end we will shake hands like white men". These words only fostered the criticism of the way he held his function.

KRAKOW. On the 26th of September, during First League football match between **Wisła Kraków** and Polonia Warszawa, local "fans" deployed a banner on the stadium's fence with the words "Lato się skończyło, czas na wykopki. Dawniej za patriotyzm odbierano życie, dziś 5000 PLN” (*Patriotism used to cost life, now it costs 5000 pln*) and a characteristic cross, very similar to the sign of an X-shaped cross inscribed in circle - the symbol of a American racist organization called **Ku Klux Klan**. Cracovian banner was part of fans' protest against League



Committee of Ekstraklasa S.A. which fined Lechia Gdańsk with 5000 PLN after their fans displayed a flag saying "17.09.1939 - the fourth partition of Poland" which had not been registered and not approved before. It was unfurled on the 70th anniversary of Red Army's attack on Poland.

RZESZÓW. On the 26th of September, during the Second League derby match in the Eastern Group between **Resovia Rzeszów** and Stal Rzeszów, neo-fascist "fans" of the home team took part in a scandalous anti-Semitic incident. They displayed a gigantic banner which read „Jedno w życiu mam marzenie, by wytępić to garbate plemię” ("It's my life's dream, to wipe out that humped nation"), on one of the



blocks adjacent to Resovia's stadium in Wyspiańskiego Street, with Celtic crosses inscribed in letters "O", the racist symbols of White Power. In addition, the flag included pictures of knights in the Resovia club colors, attacking a caravan of Jews (implied by the Star of David) in the colors of the Stal Rzeszów, the club they hate. What is more, the words "humped nation" were written in white and blue (the colors of Stal), stylized as the Yiddish alphabet. The antagonism between the two teams dates back for many decades, yet a dozen or so years ago anti-Semitic elements started to be involved (accusations of Jewish roots, frequent in the pseudo-fan communities) and used particularly by the supporters of Resovia.

ZABRZE. On the 26th of September, during the match between two football teams from Ekstraklasa's tail end, **Górnik Zabrze** vs. Motor Lublin, two teenage boys were riveting attention playing with club scarves near the pitch fence. Particularly significant was the fact that Celtic cross, the racist symbol of White Power and xenophobic violence, was pictured at least on one of the scarves.



WROCLAW. On the 27th of September, on occasion of the football match between **Śląsk Wrocław** and Ruch Chorzów in Polish Ekstraklasa, a group of football thugs started a brawl with security personnel. Local "fans",



among which extreme right-wingers were most active, began to struggle with the police. They were easy to recognize, as they wore clothes with xenophobic symbols. In the enclosed picture one can notice a man in red sweatshirt with a Confederate flag, a popular symbol of racist South in the American Civil War in the 19th century, contemporarily used, for example, by **Ku Klux**

Klan.

OCTOBER 2009

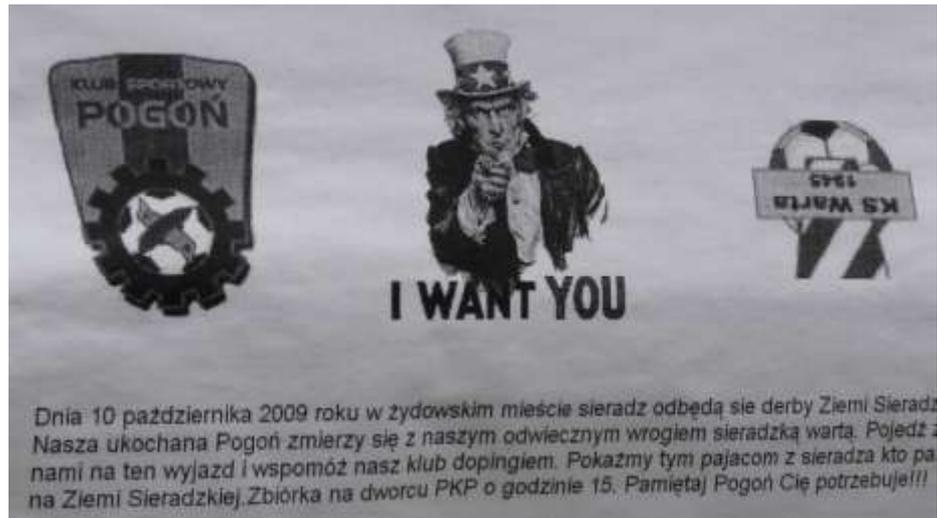
BIAŁA PODLASKA. On 3rd October, during the match between MKS Podlasie Biała Podlaska and **LKS Orleń Radzyń Podlaski** in Lubelsko-Podkarpacka Group in the 9th round of the Third League right-wing "fans" of the visitors reminded of themselves once again. So far,

they were only known for being infiltrated by **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski** (National Rebirth of Poland), the party they collaborated with during the referendum campaign for the European Union - they organized anti-Union propaganda during matches. This time they hung a racist banner on the pitch fence saying "Radzyń Międzyrzec White Brothers forever" with the symbols of the characteristic clenched fist, one of the symbols of White Power, used by international racist movement and Nazi Skins in particular.



The Odal rune, the symbol of the **Hitlerjugend** and the (prohibited) postwar neo-Nazi **Wikingerjugend**, among others, was also visible, as well as the picture of a skinhead with a baseball bat.

ZDUŃSKA WOLA. A few days before the football derby match between Warta Sieradz and **Pogoń Ekolog Zduńska Wola** in Łódzko-Mazowiecka Group in the Third League, which was to take place on the 10th of October, photocopied posters went up in the streets calling local "fans" of Pogoń to be present at the away match in "the Jewish city Sieradz". Thereby, another two feuding football clubs emerged in the region with their pseudo-fans using anti-Semitic slogans in the conflict.



PRAGUE (THE CZECH REPUBLIC). On the 10th of October, before, throughout and after the World Cup qualifying match between the Czech Republic and **Poland**, groups of Polish pseudo-fans initiated brawls with local fans and the police. Prague Police apprehended 18 of the Poles. Three of them face up to three years imprisonment. According to policemen, approximately one thousand visitors were standing without tickets in front of the stadium gates in Letnia Street. Some of them started rows and threw bangers aiming at policemen.

SIEDLCE. On the 10th of October, during the match in Mazovian Group in Second League of women's football between **Pogoń Siedlce** and GOSiR Piaseczno, a group of local racists appeared. They displayed a flag in the colors of the home team on the pitch fence. Celtic cross, the symbol of White Power, was pictured on the flag. It was the first incident of this kind on a women's football match.



BIELSKO-BIAŁA. On the 16th of October, under the flyover at PCK Street, two aggressive "fans" of **BKS Stal Bielsko-Biała** attempted to interrupt a campaign organized on occasion



of the Football Against Racism in Europe Action Week. They tried to intimidate the member of the Never Again Association who was coordinating the action as he was painting a large graffiti with the help of the authorities of three local clubs (Towarzystwo Sportowe Podbeskidzie, Bialski Klub Sportowy Stal and Towarzystwo Sportowe Czarni-Góral Żywiec) and their players, some of whom were dark-skinned. The group was painting a club scarf in the colors of all three teams and some anti-racist slogans ("Graffiti in the colors of tolerance"). The "fans" of all teams

participating in the Action Week in Bielsko are in feud for years and it sometimes shows in extreme forms. Unfortunately, a few hours after the highly successful action the graffiti was vandalized.

KIELCE. On the 17th of October, during the First League football match between MKS Korona Kielce and **Arka Gdynia**, a group of racist "fans" of the visitors in their section of the upper stands displayed a flag which read "Arka Gdynia" along with a characteristic skull emblem, the so called *Toten Kopf*. The symbol was used by



SS and the contemporary neo-Hitlerian terrorists from English organization **Combat 18** (numbers "1" and "8" are the neo-fascist symbolic code which stands for **Adolf Hitler** - derived from the 1st and 8th position of the initials in the alphabet).

OPOLE. On the 17th of October, a group of **Obóz Narodowo-Radykalny** (National Radical Camp) members and supporters, as well as football thugs with scarves in the colours of Poland and **Odra Opole** gathered in front of the building of the Voivodship Office. They attempted to interrupt Marsz Jedności Górnośląskiej (March for Upper Silesian Unity) organized by Ruch Autonomii Śląska (Silesian Autonomy Movement) on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the establishment of Upper Silesian province. They were chanting, among others, "Polska dla Polaków" (*Poland for Poles*), "Śląsk Opolski zawsze Polski" (*Opole Silesia always Polish*) and „Dzisiaj RAŚ-owcy, wczoraj hitlerowcy” (*From Hitler to RAŚ*). Thanks to a police cordon, neo-fascists did not succeed in blocking the legal March.

WROCLAW. On the 24th of October, a large group of neo-fascist "fans" of the guest team was present at the football match in Ekstraklasa between Śląsk Wrocław and **Zagłębie Lubin**. They were wearing club scarves with attention-grabbing Celtic crosses, racist symbols of White Power.



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