



www.nigdywiecej.org

Selection of Islamophobic events (for 2017-2018) monitored in the "Brown Book" monitoring by the "NEVER AGAIN" Association:

YEAR 2017

ELK. On the night of 31st December 2016 to 1st January 2017, a tragic incident occurred in a gastronomic outlet on Armii Krajowa Street, as a result of which one of the town's residents died. When it turned out that foreigners had participated in the incident, riots broke out in the town. A crowd of people chanting xenophobic slogans, such as "F...-ing ciabbatas" (a derisory term for people of Asian origin) gathered in front of a kebab bar run by Algerians, Tunisians and Moroccans. They threw stones and small explosive devices at the employees and then demolished the bar. The unknown perpetrators also attempted to set fire to an apartment of one of the foreigners. On the Internet, the **All-Polish Youth** organisation published posts praising this violence, for example, "We don't treat Islam with kid gloves here. Instead of red crayons, we use the fists." The **National Radical Camp** organized a xenophobic demonstration with the participation of football hooligans under the slogan "Poland only for Poles".

LUBIN. On the New Year's Eve of 31st December 2016 to 1st January 2017, two men trashed a restaurant run an Indian citizen. They painted racist graffiti: "F..ck Islam," "F...ck Allah", "F..ck goatf..ckers," "F... dirty coloured", along with a racist symbol of the Celtic cross. They smashed the windows and destroyed the door. The owner told the media about another racist incident which had taken place a couple of days before: "Somebody came up and insulted us with vulgar words. There were threats, too".

OZORKÓW. During the night of 2nd / 3rd January, 2017 a group of men beat a Pakistani citizen. The victim reported: "They shouted: <Osama, Osama!>. Then they asked if I were a Muslim". When he confirmed, they beat him in the head and kicked all over his body. He suffered a broken nose, broken teeth, fractured head and chest. He was taken to the hospital. Four men were apprehended. Three of them were charged. "The men were charged with an assault on a Pakistani citizen due to his national and religious identity, and also with bodily harm and insults," said the spokesperson of the local Prosecutor's Office. On 5 May 2017, the Regional Court convicted **Mariusz S.** to 1 year and 8 months of prison, **Dawid S.** to 1 and 6 months, and the third man - to 1 year 2 months of prison. The Judge justified her decision in the following manner: "The social danger related to this crime is significant. Hate crimes become more and more often and this sentence should serve as an example that perpetrators will be severely punished".

WROCLAW. During the night of 2nd / 3rd January, 2017 a masked man smashed the windows of a kebab establishment on Jedności Narodowej Street. Its owner, a man of Kurdish origin, told the media: "I know that everyone associates kebabs with Arabs and hence this attack, but I am from Kurdistan and I have never been a Muslim. Luckily for me not everyone is prejudiced and we have many regular customers."

WROCLAW. During the night of 3rd / 4th January, 2017 "unknown perpetrators" attacked a kebab restaurant on Bolesław Prus Street. The outlet is run by an Egyptian who has lived in Poland for over eight years. The attackers smashed the window and threw a bottle of gasoline into the place. Fortunately, the fire brigade managed to extinguish the fire and no one was hurt. A similar racist incident had previously occurred in this restaurant on New Year's Eve i.e. 31st December 2016. The owner, when interviewed by the local media, stated: "There were two guys I did not know."

They started insulting me and my family. I got upset. They smeared the entrance with some sauces and mustard. I cleaned it up and assumed that would be it.”

ZAKOPANE. During the night of 7th / 8th January, 2017 two non-recognized perpetrators beat up a student from Saudi Arabia. They punched him in the face several times. He suffered a broken nose. A short time earlier those same attackers tried to pick a quarrel with the Saudi when he was leaving a restaurant with his friends.

LUBLIN. During the night of 4th / 5th February, 2017 several students from Turkey were attacked by a group of unknown attackers in a club on Peowiaków Street. One of the victims reported: “We were standing by the exit when a man approached us and started verbally abusing me. It was about my appearance, and in particular about my beard. And then he asked about my nationality. When I said I was a Turk, he got even more aggressive, raised his voice and continued calling me names.” The students decided to move away from the club, but the attackers followed them, shouting “get out of Poland.” At the Lech Kaczyński Square they physically attacked one of the Turks. Katarzyna Czekaj from the Lublin-Południe District Prosecutor’s Office informed: “The assault happened because of the nationality of a man. The man was punched on the head repeatedly and kicked all over his body. As a result of the beating, he suffered injuries posing risk to his health and life.” Two of the students who tried to defend him also suffered injuries. On 6 July 2017, the District Prosecutor’s Office in Lublin informed that the perpetrators could not be traced and the case relating to the assault on the Turkish citizen was closed. In the course of the investigation, it was found that the first attack on the victim had happened outside the club but this part of the investigation was also abandoned and the case closed. Agnieszka Kępka, a spokeswoman for the District Prosecutor’s Office in Lublin justified this decision in her statement as follows: “It was one blow. The aggrieved party did not suffer any injuries. The perpetrator of the offence was identified. However, in the circumstances, it was felt that there would be no social gain from his prosecution.”

KATOWICE. On the 10th February, 2017 on Piotr Skarga Street, two men directed racially insulting comments towards a Kebab restaurant worker from Pakistan. They shouted “You f..ing Turk” toward him. The attackers also threw a trash can into the premises and smashed a window with stones. The Katowice-North District Prosecutor charged two men with the offences of insulting the Pakistani citizen because of his race and the destruction of property.

ŚWIDWIN. On 8th April, 2017 in the downtown, three men attacked employees of a local diner, from Pakistan. They cried “sloven” and “terrorists”. Moreover, one of the attackers entered the counter area, hit one of the Pakistanis and pushed him onto a hot grill. The man suffered burns and trauma to his head and shoulder. The two other men assaulted the owner and the other employee. They were joined by a client who was a witness to the scene. The police was called to the site. The four men were charged with assault and the use of violence or violent threats due to their nationality, race, politics and religion.

ŁÓDŹ. On 17 April, 2017 four men attacked a kebab bar. They shouted to one of the employees (from Bangladesh) insults like: “You turban” and “Nigger” and spat at him. The perpetrators threw chairs in the direction of other staff and trashed the entire place. The police was called. In the presence of the police, two attackers continued to insult the owner by shouting: “Come on, turban, what are you going to do?”. The victim said the following about the reaction of the police: “The police officers tried to convince us that nothing really happened (...) that there’s no point in continuing this case. They said that maybe those men just don’t like foreigners and we have to get used to it. I said that I won’t leave without a crime report.” Two attackers were charged with the use of violence and insults due to nationality or race. In the media, the bar owner described earlier hate

crimes which had taken place at his diner: “We know the ones responsible for the incident. They would come here often, throw forks and food at us, shouted slurs at our employees. They show off their disdain, they treat foreigners like garbage not like men.” On 15th January, 2018 two men accused of insulting a Bangladeshi citizen and destroying his apartment were convicted by The District Court in Łódź. **Adam S.** was given a two year and two month prison sentence, and **Przemysław S.** a two year jail sentence. Neither sentence was subject to suspension.

KALISZ. On 20th June, 2017 the media reported about **Facebook** comments made by an MP from the **Law and Justice, Jan Mosiński**. He wrote about a local dark-skinned politician from the opposition: “It’s enough to take a look at his face, skin colour; he’s just a sick camel head”.

LUBLIN. On 21st June, 2017 an unidentified man spat at a girl wearing a hijab (a scarf which covers hair and neck according to the rules of Islam). The victim teenager was a member of an educational visit for the German youth (of Muslim immigrants from Palestine, Lebanon and Turkey), dedicated to the history of Jews and the Holocaust. The students said that they tried to report the attack with the help of their translator to the police, but they were laughed at. The officers failed to take any action. Their failure to act was reported to the local prosecutor’s office, as was the insult of the Muslim student. Moreover, on 21 June in Lublin, a vendor refused to sell water to the German young people, while a female passer-by acted aggressively towards one of the girls in hijab and shouted racial slurs. Similar racist incidents took place in two other cities visited by the group: in **WARSZAWA** and **ŁÓDŹ**. In Warsaw, one of the security guards at a shop demanded one of the students, who was speaking Persian on the phone, to leave. According to him, she was “disturbing other clients” (sic!). The girls with hijabs were insulted at the hotel and the shopping mall. In Łódź, they were insulted several times on the street. One of the teenagers was threatened with an attack.

SZCZECIN. At the end of June, 2017 Internet users posted numerous racist and aggressive comments about the President of Szczecin Piotr Krzystek, who advised about granting short-term aid to a family from Syria. A lone mother with five children lived in Warsaw, but their premises were burnt by an arsonist. Her two-year residence card expired. The woman decided to leave to Germany, when she filed for international assistance. However, the Polish Office for Foreigners refused to issue necessary documents and she was forced to stay in Poland until her case was examined. By the initiative of the local government, the family was taken to a homeless shelter and after a couple of days she came back to Warsaw. In reaction to this help, the Internet users published comments as the following: “It’s enough to drop some bombs on a <resident> and take potshots at their family and you’re suddenly on the same level as a Syrian leech”, “The family moved to Gdańsk, they will stay there until some moron gives them a home because they’re poor, and then they thank him with a machete”, “Accepting African immigrants is a mutiny against democratic government. Off with Krzystek”.

LUBAWA. On 19th August on Warszawska Street, 2017 an unrecognized man demolished an apartment belonging to a mixed Polish-Tunisian couple. Nobody was at home at the time and happily nobody suffered personally. The perpetrator turned out to be **Dawid W.**, living in that town, who a day earlier in one of the town’s public places shouted racist abuse at the Tunisian man and hit him in the face. In a conversation with media, when asked why he behaved aggressively towards the man, Dawid W. replied: “And what is this <ciapaty> (*Polish derogative slang word meaning somebody of different color – ed.*) doing in Lubawa?” The wronged Tunisian informed also about other racist attacks which he experienced, since he settled in Lubawa in 2012. “I have a broken nose, I had three surgeries to my hand, I have teeth knocked out”. At one such incident, the aggressor cut my brow: “I went out at night to buy cigarettes. They started shouting abuse at me. I pretended not to hear them, but immediately I was hit in the face” – he said.

WARSAW. On 7th September, 2017 on Nowolipie Street, an unknown man and an accompanying woman beat up a Chechen woman dressed in traditional muslim attire. The attacker shouted at her: “You fu..ing muslim!”, “To the gas chamber with you!” and “Get the fu.k out of here!” He pushed her down to the ground and kicked her head and whole body. His female acquaintance also joined in the violence. To the woman’s defence came a witness of this act. In a statement for the press he said: “I am an orthodox Jew and have myself many times had contact with such unpleasant situations. The assailant threatened that he would call the police and I answered <very well>”. The assailant turned out to be 32-year-old **Kamil B.** who was charged with offending religious feelings and insults based on someone’s belonging to a religious group.

WROCLAW. During the night of 25th / 26th November, 2017 in the Niepold Passage, a Turkish student with a group of friends were attacked by several tens of men. The assailants shouted abuse at them: “Fu..k the muslims”, “Fu..k the Turks”, “Poland is for Poles”. When the attacked managed to escape to a kebab bar on Ruska Street, the aggressive assailants tried to get inside. The bar owner said: “I closed the door and barricaded it with chairs. When I was calling the police, they threw bottles at the windows, kicked them and beat the window-panes with their fists”.

WARSAW. During the night of 26th / 27th November, 2017 on the September Heroes Street “unknown perpetrators” devastated the Centre of Muslim Culture. Surveillance cameras recorded two masked men who smashed several windows in the building, throwing rocks and pieces of concrete at them. This was not the first attack on this Centre. Two months earlier someone destroyed the entrance door but the perpetrators were never found. Moreover, the employees of this institution have in the past received threats, motivated by hate towards Islam. In April of 2017 they sent a letter, among other to the President of Poland, the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior, in which they informed about the rising wave of incidents aimed at the Muslim minority in Poland. They received an answer only from the Office of the Senate: “We express our conviction that your fears will never come true”. In December 2017, policemen arrested a 33-year old man, suspected of the devastation of the Centre of Muslim Culture. During a house search, they found leaflets calling for religious hate.

YEAR 2018

ŁÓDŹ. On 8th January, 2018 an unknown man attacked a student from Saudi Arabia at the Łódź Shopping Centre on Piłsudski Street. The attacker punched the victim in the face with his fists and shouted: “If you want to plant bombs, go do it back home!”. The victim notified the police about the incident. A 33-year-old resident of Łódź was arrested and charged with violence on grounds to nationality.

OLAŁA. On 15th January, 2018 an Egyptian citizen informed the police that two residents of the city called him racist names. The attackers were detained. Spokesman for the Lower Silesian police Staff aspirant Paweł Petrykowski stated: “The detainees’ behaviour was caused by hatred in relation to racial and religious affiliation”. Both men were charged with resorting to public insults on grounds of ethnicity.

GNIEZNO. On 12th February, 2018 two men attacked three Moroccan citizens, employees of a kebab bar located on Warszawska Street. One of the attackers pointed a gun at them and shouted that they had to “get out of Poland” and “Poland for Poles.” The Moroccans called for the police and the assailants were arrested. The District Prosecutor’s Office in Gniezno commenced proceedings relating to an offence of public incitement to hatred based on national differences and

public insults due to national, ethnic and racial affiliation. In a statement for the media, the owner of the bar informed that both he and his employees had been insulted previously because of their race.

WARSAW. On 15th March, 2018, in a shop in Praga-North district, one of the customers shouted racist insults and threats against a security worker of Moroccan origin. A struggle developed when the victim stopped the attacker from leaving the market, The police were called. **Robert J.** was detained on suspicion of making criminal threats and public insults at a Moroccan citizen due to his racial origins.

WARSAW. In March and April 2018 a 54-year-old inhabitant of Ząbek made threats against Russian female residents of a refugee centre in Targówek. The women were of Chechen nationality. He threatened them with death and shouted insults relating to their origin. The police detained **Tomasz G.** and searched his apartment where they found various models of revolvers, ammunition and grenades. The prosecutor's office charged the man with the offence of making unlawful threats and public insults toward Chechen women due to their nationality.

WARSAW. On 6th April, 2018 a woman dressed in a Muslim headscarf was attacked by a middle-aged man at Haller Square. She was passing him and he shouted twice: "Muslim, do you have a light?", called her a "whore" and threw a lit cigarette at her.

WARSAW. In Mid-April, 2018 Mikołaj Luft, a triathlete, announced on Facebook that the director of the Sports and Rehabilitation Centre of the Medical University of Warsaw had issued xenophobic directions to the paramedics employed at the swimming pool facilities owned by Centre. According to Luft, during a conversation with her subordinate she justified the ban on bringing backpacks to the swimming pool area as follows: "There are Arabs studying at the university who could blow the pool up." The director issued a statement in which she denied that she had said such words.

WARSAW. On 13th May, 2018 three people attacked an Egyptian citizen, the owner of a kebab bar located on Bolesław Chrobry Street. The men beat him with a metal stick and kicked all over his body, while a woman accompanying him shouted racist insults at him. The attackers threatened to kill the victim. In addition, one of them broke the glass in the door of the premises. The Egyptian had to be taken to a hospital. The police detained **Magdalena K., Paweł L.** and **Marek R.** A spokesperson for the District Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw, prosecutor Łukasz Łapczyński, issued a statement: "The investigators have charged Magdalena K. with the offence of public insults on grounds of national or ethnic affiliation. (...) The men have been charged with assaults. Additionally, Paweł L. will stand trial for aggravated assault with a dangerous tool, making death threats and causing property damage." The Warsaw-Ochota District Prosecutor's Office has commenced court proceedings.

WARSAW. On 17th May, 2018 **Wojciech Cejrowski** posted on **Twitter** the following entry: "To all who hate me, because I am supposed to be totally <pro-Israeli> I respond: I AM NOT. It is simply that in this conflict we have the following choice: Jews who want to STEAL FROM US or Arabs who want us to ELIMINATE US," (*emphasis by the author*).

MROWINY. On 28th May, 2018 the District Prosecutor's Office in Wałbrzych charged **Wioletta W.** with publicly insulting a minor and committed her to trial. The accused is from the village of Mrowiny (Świdnicki powiat) and is accused of insulting a 15-year-old son of her neighbour because of his dark colour of skin. She shouted at him, "You are an Arab, you are an f...ing terrorist!" The boy's mother notified the police about the incident.

RADOM. On 9th July, 2018 two men attacked the Pakistani owners of a kebab bar on Żeromskiego Street. They shouted racist insults towards them and threatened to burn the bar. During a scuffle which developed one of the Pakistani employees was beaten up. In addition, the attackers broke the windows in the premises. Both men were detained, charged with the offence of insulting behaviour on grounds of nationality and religion, and one of them was additionally charged with violence against a Pakistani citizen.

WARSAW. On 19th August, 2018 two football hooligans, fans of **Legia Warsaw** wearing the club scarves, shouted racist insults at a dark-skinned man on tram number 33 (going towards Młociny) near the Central Railway Station. A female passenger who stood up in his defence (none of the other dozen or so persons reacted), reported: “One of them shouted something offensive towards a foreigner, sat down and began to mock him. They asked why he was traveling by tram, whether he had a bicycle and commented on his appearance. They said something like: <Hey, chapatti man, we’ll check if you have a ticket>”. The aggressors behaved aggressively towards the woman as well: “They asked if I liked people like him and if I wanted to marry him. (...) And when I said that public transport is for everyone, they replied that it was not for those like this <ciapaty> (*polish slang term meaning a “chapatti man” – ed.*). Before getting off the tram, one of them shouted: <Stop the Islamization of Europe>”.

KRASNYSTAW. On 30th August, 2018 in a gastronomic establishment run by a Polish-Egyptian couple, two men behaved aggressively on xenophobic grounds. One of them damaged the equipment in the bar. The police were called in. The next day, one of the two assailants, **Sylwester Ś.**, returned to the premises and, together with **Leszek K.** accompanying him, directed the threats to employees related to their nationality. The bar owner stated as follows: “I heard a slogan <Poland for Poles>. The attackers said that the premises should be closed, otherwise we would have big problems. They also told me to return to Egypt.” His employee added: “They were very aggressive. They ran in and said that I was an Islamist, an Arab. I showed them the cross (*cross of the Catholic Church of the Coptic rite – ed.*), which I always wear, I said that I was a Christian, then one of the men spat on it and he threw himself at me with fists.” The attackers were banned from approaching the premises. The District Prosecutor’s Office in Hrubieszów conducted proceedings related to the use of violence and threats on grounds of nationality. However, the attacks on the two Egyptian men have not stopped. “They still call me names. They are not allowed to come near my bar, but they could not care less about it. Just before the feast of November 1, one of the participants of the assault on the bar, the one was not covered by the ban, came with a candle. He said it was my funeral. Another one moved his hand across his neck to show what was going to happen to me,” said the landlord. Because of these recurring xenophobic acts of aggression, his colleague decided to leave the city.

KATOWICE. On 1st September, 2018 an unknown man on the tram no. 6 on the section Katowice Centrum - Katowice Brynów, called a dark passenger various derogative names. He shouted to him: “We do not want the likes of you in Poland! People like you are terrorists, they murder women in Germany, Islam means terrorism.” There were several people on the tram but only one woman reacted. “Passengers acted as if they weren’t there. The victim wanted to get out of the tram, but then the aggressor approached him, his anger intensified and he continued to scream. That was when I stood up” – she reported. When the dark-skinned man managed to get off the tram, the attacker directed his aggression against the woman. He shouted to her, “F... Islam.” The tram driver took no action in relation to the incident.

CRACOW. On 11th September, 2018 in a speech delivered at the Main Market Square to the students of the King Jan III Sobieski II Lyceum, a Małopolska school curator, **Barbara Nowak**,

said: “The patron of your school was a great king who was able to defend the whole of Europe against Islam. You must follow his example.” The meeting of the pupils with the curator was held as part of the celebrations of the anniversary of the battle of Vienna on September 12, 1683, in which the Polish-Austrian-German army under the command of Jan III Sobieski defeated the Ottoman Empire.

WARSAW. On 5th October, 2018 a passenger on tram 17 in the section Rondo ONZ - Dworzec Centralny, behaved aggressively against four students from Turkey. They were talking in Turkish when the man hit one of them on the head. He shouted that they should talk to each other in Polish. The assailant was accompanied by a group of friends who encouraged him to continue aggression. Thanks to the intervention of other passengers, the Turks managed to get off the tram. They reported the incident to the police at the Central Station. “Unfortunately, due to the language barrier, the police officers were not able to accept the witness statements of the victims. Consequently, the students turned to the consulate of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Warsaw with a request for help in the matter. The intervention of the officers of the consular department on October 10 was necessary. With language [translation] assistance from the consulate, the injured students were able to submit statements to the police station” - informed the Embassy of Turkey in a press statement. The District Prosecutor’s Office in Piaseczno conducted investigations into violent behaviour on grounds of nationality, but due to the failure to find the perpetrator, the investigation was closed.

WARSAW. On 19th October, 2018 **Wojciech Cejrowski**, known for his xenophobic views, published the following appeal on **Twitter**: “Dear readers, I receive, read and observe HIGHLY DISCONCERTING information about #PiSlamization of Poland. Please, send me your photos from the trams, descriptions, and names of the districts – LET’S MONITOR THIS RISK to our life. The media maintain a HIGHLY ALARMING silence,” (*emphasis by the author*). In response to this appeal, supporters of Cejrowski in an unacceptable way, without asking for permission, took photos of women in Muslim dress, men of Arab origin and dark people, and then published them on the Internet. One of these photographs showed Indian employees of a food delivery company and was given a racist heading: “Due to the risk of epidemics I do not use Uber Eats.” There were many xenophobic comments to Cejrowski’s post, such as: “Every step I take in Warsaw, there is a Hindu, an Arab, and a Blackie. Just go to the city centre and see. This is happening. An invasion of foreigners” (*user “Bob Gedron”*) and “Merkel will make sure now that Islamic criminals arrive in Poland” (*“Ryszard Wasilewski. Antykomunista”*). On 3rd November Cejrowski himself posted a photograph taken in Krakow in a clothes shop, with three women in Muslim clothing. With his consent, the internet users published abusive comments under the entry, including: “Get out from Poland”, “Muslim savages are getting more and more visible in Poland, we must chase them while we still can, this plague spreads fast” and “Get out from Poland, the country of righteous, honest Poles.”

WARSAW. On 15th December, 2018 two passengers of Turkish origin travelling on the bus line 521 on the route from Miedzeszyn towards the city centre, were attacked by five football hooligans of **Legia Warsaw**. The hooligans were going to an Extra League football game of their club against Piast Gliwice. One of the victims, a citizen of both Turkey and Poland, reported: “The men wearing the colours of Legia began to challenge us: <You are dirt, f... off from here>. They were more and more aggressive. They sang a racist song. I tried to calm them down. I said that I was Polish, that sometimes I go to Legia’s matches. The men wanted us to leave the bus with them. We refused. One of them hit me hard in the face with his head. I approached the driver. I asked him to react. The driver pressed the red button. The patrol did not come. The attackers, when they heard about the call for the police, got off at the nearest stop.” The victim tried to report the assault at the Police Station

at the Centrum metro station, at the District Police Station on Wilcza Street, and at the Warsaw-Wawer Police Station, but all he heard from the officers was that “they had no time to take care of his problem.” Eventually, a Turkish citizen managed to get the police to accept the report of a racist assault. The policemen subsequently arrested two men on suspicion of the assault.

KATOWICE. On the night of 21st / 22nd December 2018, a group of several men attacked three students of Arabic descent at the Main Railway Station. The attackers accosted their victims on the stairs near McDonald’s restaurants and aggressively questioned them about their origin and their religion. The students explained that they were Muslims, and hastily went to the platform for the Gliwice train. When they boarded the train, the same assailants followed and then hit one of them in the back of the head and knocked him down. Other perpetrators followed this with an attack on all the students. One of the students was thrown onto the tracks just before the departure of the train, and another was beat up until unconscious. The station security staff did not intervene. Event witnesses called for an ambulance and the police.

Contact information:

“NEVER AGAIN” Association

redakcja@nigdywiecej.org ; rafal@nigdywiecej.org

phone: +48 601 360 835

www.nigdywiecej.org

www.facebook.com/respect.diversity

www.twitter.com/StowNIGDYWIECEJ