

# **“NEVER AGAIN” ASSOCIATION**



**“LET’S KICK RACISM OUT OF STADIUMS” CAMPAIGN**

**MONITORING OF RACISM AND CHAUVINISM SYMPTOMS  
ON POLISH FOOTBALL STADIUMS**

**December 2005 – November 2007**

## MONITORING OF STADIUMS

### DECEMBER 2005

BIALYSTOK. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, in the vicinity of “Stars” club at Białówna street, a fighting squad of local neo-fascists beat to death 19-year-old Adrian R., one of the leaders of Pretorianie, a group of Jagiellonia Białystok fans. The attackers tormented him with baseball bats and stabbed him several times with a knife. When R. lost consciousness as a result of a hit at his head with a club, he received three deadly strikes with a knife that reached his heart. The attack was an outcome of a conflict between groups of Jagiellonia fans – until recently, nazi-skinheads were a stable element of football fans’ environment in Białystok. One of the lines of their conflict with Pretorianie over the Jagiellonia stadium leadership was their ideological friendship with neo-nazis from Lechia Gdańsk, a club toward which the rest of Jagiellonia fans are hostile, and the willingness to promote racism during the team’s matches, which Pretorianie opposed. The conflict escalated rapidly. When in November 2005 more than 800 Jagiellonia fans travelled by train to the team’s match with Widzew Łódź, is one of compartments fights between Pretorianie and skinheads took place, with the use of axes. Few days later nazi-skinheads threw into a “Jaga” pub an axe with a slip of paper with threats addressed to Jagiellonia Fan Association attached. On December 12<sup>th</sup> in the area of the Wysoki Stoczek neighbourhood, skinheads beat a few Pretorianie. The victims had their heads and legs hurt and received knife cuts. As revenge, two hours later Pretorianie beat Maciej J alias “Śledź,” one of the most important figures in the neo-fascist circles. The murder of Adrian R. was a vengeance for it. The police arrested the perpetrators: Radosław Karpowicz, Adrian Grygorczuk and Adrian Jaśkiewicz. The prosecutor’s office issued also an all-European arrest warrant concerning the fourth of the murderers, Jarosław Ostrówka,, who fled to England or Ireland. In addition, the police arrested few dozens of other skinheads and found a few axes and different types of clubs at one of their leaders’ place. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006, a district court in Białystok sentenced Adrian Grygorczuk to 15 years of imprisonment, Radosław Karpowicz to 12.5 years, and Adrian Jaśkiewicz to 11 years of imprisonment. District prosecutor accused also two other neo-fascists – Wojciech T. and Artur S. – of inciting to the attack.

### FEBRUARY 2006

ZIELONA GÓRA. On February 24<sup>th</sup> the local District Prosecutor’s Office ordered investigation concerning the Falubaz Zielona Góra speedway “fans”, who insulted the Marshal of Lubuskie District, Andrzej Bocheński. The affair was caused by a decision of the Lubuskie Marshal’s Office Steering Committee to lower a priority of the speedway stadium investment from the first to the third position. This meant that there would not be the EU funds for the reconstruction of the speedway stadium and the priority was given to an expansion of a public library in the city of Gorzów. Responding to this decision, the “fans” organised a protest in front of the Marshal’s Office in Zielona Góra, in Podgórna Street. Part of the protest was a “happening”: the handing of over 50 books for the Gorzów library. Unfortunately, some of those books contained vulgar antisemitic abuses and allusions, such as “*Bochen, you fu...ing Jew*”, swastikas and nazi greetings. On March 27<sup>th</sup> the Prosecutor’s Office decided that calling the Marshal a “*fu...ing Jew*” does not constitute an act of insulting a public official, and can only be considered a slander. Thus the Prosecutor’s Office determined that the act “*had not indicate a criminal activity*”, so no legal proceedings were initiated.

### MARCH 2006

OSTROWIEC ŚW. In early March, the editors of “Gazeta Ostrowiecka” and other local media and other public institutions received an “*Open letter from the KSZO Ostrowiec fans to the board of the*

*KSZO football team, the Polish Football Union leadership, the Orange Extraklasa [Premier League] Representatives and national and local media,*” signed by the “Polish Football” Association. The letter was a racist and xenophobic protest against the involvement of a football player from Cameroon, Abdel Salami, in the Ostrowiec team. The same association signed a racist protest letter against signing a contract by 4<sup>th</sup>-league football club Stal Mielec with two dark-skinned players: Jean Black Ngody and Moses Esingila Molongo. KSZO club authorities and real fans were outraged at this letter and Salami was enthusiastically received in Ostrowiec.

KRAKÓW. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, during a top local game of the first league football teams Cracovia Kraków and Wisła Kraków, in a very tense atmosphere, some fans of the host team Cracovia expressed racist attitude towards a black player of Wisła, Jean Paulista from Brazil. Whenever he kicked the ball, the racists made sounds imitating monkey voices. They also thrown bottles, coins and ice stones, as well as spat on members of the Wisła team. The game was followed by numerous brawls and fights between “fans” of both teams. In one of such fights, a fan of Wisła was killed getting stabbed in his back with a knife.

SZCZECIN. On march 24<sup>th</sup> during a 1<sup>st</sup>-league football match between Pogoń Szczecin and Wisła Kraków a player of the guest team, Tomasz Kłos, several times a member of the Polish representation team, shouted racist insults (“*You are all black monkeys*”) a forward player of the Pogoń team, a dark-skinned Brazilian Edie. After the match Kłos claimed that he had not used such words. The incident was described in an appendix to the protocol by Ryszard Miziak, the director of Pogoń Szczecin.

#### APRIL 2006

OPOLE. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, a top game was played between the 3<sup>rd</sup> group of the 3<sup>rd</sup> League (Lubuskie, Lower Silesia, Opole and Upper Silesia regions) football teams: Odra Opole and Raków Częstochowa. These clubs have some of the most notoriously racist “fans” in Poland. The game was accompanied by a real eruption of racist expressions. The host team’s racist fans put a banner on a fence by the field: “*KKK Mississippi Odra Opole*”, where KKK stands for an extremely racist organisation Ku Klux Klan. The banner displayed also a symbol of the U.S. civil war racist South’s flag and an image of a Ku Klux Klan “knight”. Then the neo-fascist “fans” of the Raków team displayed six racist banners: a flag carrying words “*White Patriots Częstochowa*” and a skull, the so-called *Toten Kopf*, identical to that used by the nazi SS and today by neo-nazi terrorists of an English organisation Combat 18 (“1” and “8” stand in the neo-fascist symbolism for “coded” words “Adolf Hitler” – as they indicate the first and the eight letters in the alphabet: “a” and “h”). There were also: a U.S. South’s flag (a symbol of an international racist movement), two flags with Celtic crosses, racist symbols of *white power*. Another racist symbol was a banner carrying words “*Fanatics. Our hearts and fists beat for Raków*” and a fist symbol of racist *white power* used particularly within nazi-skinhead movement. The sixth symbol, an unambiguously neo-fascist one, was a red-and-white banner with a stylised swastika (the so-called “*wolf’s hook*”), a nazi symbol used during world war II by armoured SS divisions and by a post-nazi terrorist organisation Werwolf. A Polish Football Union observer intervened demanding that the game is ended unless the chauvinist banners are removed, so under police pressure security team and the Raków “fans” themselves took the symbols of the fence. Some of those banners were soon re-displayed among other fans in the audience, but this incident caused no consequences.

WARKA. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, during a football game between two teams from the Mazowsze group of the 4<sup>th</sup> league, KS Warka and Polonia II Warszawa, a group of nazi-fans of the host team put a nazi banner with a Celtic cross, a racist symbol of *white power*, on the fence by the field. The same banner appeared also during other games in which neo-fascists from Warka were present.

WROCLAW. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, during a second league football game Śląsk Wrocław – Widzew Łódź, some racist pseudo-fans from Wrocław insulted a Widzew's player, a Nigerian Kelechi Icheanacho. Every time he would get the ball the audience was humming and imitate monkey sounds. The disciplinary department of the Polish Football Union punished the Wrocław club with a ban on audience entrance during three league games on the local stadium. Additionally, a financial fine of 10,000 PLN was imposed and the Śląsk Wrocław club was obliged to apologise the player of Widzew publicly.

LUBLIN. In late April on the city's streets numerous racist posters appeared, which targeted a Nigerian football player, Bernard Ocholeche, who was about to join a third-league team, Motor Lublin. The black-and-white posters contained a crossed-out picture of Ocholeche and slogans: "*Motor – the white team*" and "*We don't want a nigger*". The posters were probably made by some nazi-fans of the Motor team. They have been known for their racist views for years. The club's managers clearly distanced themselves from the incident and the police started investigating the case.

### MAY 2006

BYTÓW. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, during a fourth-league game between Bytovia Bytów and Gryf 95 Słupsk, a group of members of the National Rebirth of Poland (NOP), a party commonly considered a neo-fascist one, were carrying a campaign to attract new members. The NOP activists were distributing nationalist-chauvinist materials, and the party's banner was displayed on the fence by the football field during the whole match.

ZIELONA GÓRA. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, during a third-league football game between Arka Nowa Sól and Lechia Zielona Góra, a group of nazi-skinheads who were members of the Lechia's Fan Club, chanted slogans targeting a Nigerian Ugo Enyinnaya, a player of their own team: "*Poland for Poles*", "*Europe for white people*", and "*Ugo, the savage, go the f..cking back to Africa*". In the heat of the game, the players had not heard the slogans. After the game ended they approached the fence of the "scarf-fans" sector, to thank their fans for cheering. Then the Nigerian player got spat on and insulted again. In reaction to this incident the Lechia's managers dissolved the odd fan club and the police launched an investigation into the case against the racist members of the fan club.

### JUNE 2006

BIAŁYSTOK. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, in front of the stadium of the Hetman Białystok club in Słoneczna street, where the Jagiellonia Białystok team plays its games, a militant group of 40 local neo-fascists attacked a festival organised by the Hetman club's fans before the second-league game Jagiellonia vs. Widzew Łódź. The attack resulted in one "scarf-fan" of Jagiellonia being critically hurt and transferred to a hospital, and several others being wounded due to knife stabs. After the initial shock, people who gathered in front of the stadium chased the skinheads and beat up some of them. Some of the attackers had to seek help from police forces. It was another act of conflict between the neo-fascists and Jagiellonia fans: the conflict concentrated around the stadium audience leadership and attitudes towards racism. The court case of the attackers was scheduled by the District Court in Białystok on 28<sup>th</sup> of December, 2006, but it was adjourned due to absence of one of the attorneys. Earlier on, the court withdrew from launching trials of six and then another two accused men, who declared they wanted to be subject to a suspended prison punishment, financial fine as well as a ban on entering the stadium. Another three men submitted similar declarations but the Prosecutor's Office did not agree to follow their request since their punishment would probably be more severe and not suspended. One of them is accused of using a knife during the fight. Eventually, 18 young residents of Białystok were accused in the case.

Nine of them who are still juvenile, and who were also accused of taking part in this fight, had been tried by a juvenile and family court. The accused may receive up to eight years prison sentence. Due to a public significance of the case, after accusations were made, during the investigation the Prosecutor's Office revealed names and photographs of most of the adult persons arrested. Some people participating in the fight were arrested right in the place of incident, and others were stopped after the police chasing them and using helicopter. Then still other people's arrests were taking place between June and September, and TV records from the incident site proved helpful. The fight the police confiscated seven metal pipes, five knives and three axes.

WROCLAW. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the "Trybuna" daily revealed that Wrocław section of the All-Polish Youth, whose leader until recently was Radosław Parda, former minister of sport and the League of Polish Families MP, collaborates with Roman Zieliński, a neo-nazi well-know in the region, an author of a book "*How did I fall in love with Adolf Hitler.*" On May 31<sup>st</sup>, during a 2<sup>nd</sup>-league football match between Śląsk Wrocław and Świt Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, the "*Śląsk to my!*" [We are 'Śląsk'!] magazine, whose editor was Zieliński, was being distributed among the fans. Apart from racist contents such as "*A Gypsy is not a Pole*", the last page of the magazine contained information that "*All-Polish Youth provides financial support to this magazine*". Parda, who had been the Śląsk team fan (and among leaders of this team's fans have for a long time been nazi skinheads) for many years, criticised the "NEVER AGAIN" Association when he became the deputy minister of sport. He belittled the problem of racism in stadiums and denied the fact that racist symbols were displayed during matches. He said: "*I don't recall seeing them [i.e. the symbols] on Polish stadiums*". He kept this attitude despite the fact that the club he was supporting was threatened with fines to be introduced by the Polish Football Union for allowing racist contents among the audience.

KRAKÓW. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, the editors of the local supplement to „*Gazeta Wyborcza*” informed about the April issue of "*Tarcza*", the local magazine of All-Polish Youth organisation. The issue of "*Tarcza*" contained an article about the March for Tolerance, and was titled: *Do these men penetrate their anuses?* The article presented photographs, names and last names of young politicians of the Democratic Party (Demokraci.pl), the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) and the Social Democracy of Poland (SdPL) who had taken part in the Parade, as well as vulgar descriptions of their alleged sexual practices: "*These are people who promote mutual masturbation of men*". The "*Tarcza*" was distributed in the streets and during football games of Wisła Kraków, and the nazi-fans of this football club had been the major militant force during homophobic "anti-parade" counter-demonstrations. The article also contained a symptomatic sentence: "*Let's hope that the power and fist of Polish football fans will be used in a good cause (...) let's not allow to replace our club's colours with the rainbow ones!*". The magazine was also distributed in the office of the Polish parliament's deputy speaker, Marek Kotliński. Among those responsible for the publication was Michał Sroka, a board member of the All-Polish Youth and an editor of "*Tarcza*". Grzegorz Pietraszewski, one of the men who were insulted, an activist of the Democrats, was called "*a stubborn defender of gay people and of ejaculations on one's partner's skin*", and he announced that he would launch a complaint to the court.

RUDA ŚL. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the police arrested a 32-year-old nazi-skinhead, a militant of the Ruch Chorzów football club and a resident of Ruda Śląska town. The man was charged with a number of crimes including robbery, in-house burglary in Sosnowiec etc. The police searched his home and found a flag with swastika as well as books containing fascist contents.

## JULY 2006

KOSTRZYN N. ODRĄ. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, during the second day of the Woodstock Station 2006 festival, a

co-ordinator of the NEVER AGAIN Association's antiracist campaign received phone calls threatening to kill him. An anonymous person not only used racist insults against the anti-racist activist (and receiving such insults is somewhat a standard part of anti-racist work) but also threatened him: *During this Woodstock festival you will be stabbed*". The police were informed and launched standard investigation. The NEVER AGAIN Association has been active at the Woodstock Station festival for years, organising Anti-Racist Polish Football Championship as part of the "Let's Kick Racism Out of Stadiums" campaign.

## AUGUST 2006

ŁÓDŹ. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, during a first-league football match ŁKS Łódź – Legia Warszawa, nazi-fans from Warsaw, known for their antisemitism, displayed a banner on a fence: *"Fidel, if it is you, then take care"*. This sign of solidarity concerned a 33-year-old resident of Warsaw, Karol G. alias "Fidel", who had been arrested on 28 of June for launching an attack against Michael Schudrich, the Chief Rabbi of Poland on 27 of May in the centre of Warsaw. The man had been a well-known racist militant among the fans of Polonia Warszawa football club and a member of Polish National Party (PPN).

SUWAŁKI. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, during a third-league football game between Wigry Suwałk and Radomiak Radom, Miłosz J., a local "fan", cheered by his stadium peers, displayed a red-and-white banner with swastika and the so-called "falanga" symbol (hand with sword – the sign of pre-WWII Polish fascist movement, now used by the NOP, a neo-fascist party in Poland). Nazi-fans also sung short songs with the words *"Auschwitz-Birkenau, sha la la la..."*. The club from Suwałki was punished by the Polish Football Union with a financial fine. Also one match had to be played without audience. 21-year-old Miłosz J., a second-year history student at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) in Lublin, refused his guilt when the District Prosecutor's Office charged him with propagating fascist contents and symbols. He was the only person accused, since there was a lack of evidence that his stadium peers also committed this kind of crime. The trial began on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in the District Court in Suwałki and Miłosz J. Was facing a possibility of 2 years sentence. During the very same match, nazi-fans of Wigry displayed two other flags with Celtic crosses – racist symbols of *white power* – and one with an inscription *"North-East"* with "T" letters stylised after symbols of Hitlerjugend and contemporary neo-nazi and nazi-skinhead groups.

## SEPTEMBER 2006

GDAŃSK. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, during a Polish Cup football game between Lechia Gdańsk and Pogoń Szczecin, nazi-fans from Gdańsk threw bananas on black Brazilian players of the Pogoń team when they were entering the field. Throughout the game the "fans" of Lechia were also shouting *"Rudolf Hess is our paragon"* and imitated monkey sounds. Hess was one of the founders of nazism and close collaborator of Adolph Hitler. In the 20<sup>th</sup> minute of the game the neo-nazis threw bananas again. A left defender of Pogoń team, Daniel, suffered the most when he was executing out ball from a spot close to the Lechia's "fans". After the game, a Brazilian player Julcimar told the media with tears in his eyes: *"All people are equal regardless of their skin colour, and no one should be discriminated"*. Also Lechia's players were shocked: *"This was embarrassing, and we don't like this kind of behaviour. We don't want this any more during games we play"*, said Maciej Kalkowski, the Lechia team's captain. Also Jacek Kurski, a parliamentary deputy of the Law and Justice party, a fan of Lechia and a former activist of the club. Kurski said: *"I saw those mindless people throwing bananas at the Brazilian players. It's simply embarrassing, it's plain stupidity, and they expose themselves easily to public opinion and media criticism. There's no ideology in it, just idiotic manner"*. Nazi-skinheads and neo-nazis from the Gdańsk chapter of the international neo-fascist network Blood and Honour, have been "rul-

ing” on the Lechia’s stadium for years. The fact is well known throughout the country. Interestingly, the bananas were being thrown close to the part of stadium where the club’s managers and VIP’s sit. The Gdańsk scandal was for several days a major theme in the largest media in Brazil, since a few players from that country are members of Pogoń Szczecin team. The City Police Department, under a supervision of the District Prosecutor’s Office from Gdańsk Wrzeszcz, launched an official investigation against the racist football fans involved in the incident. They might face up to three years of prison sentence. The Disciplinary Department of the Polish Football Union decided to close the stadium of Lechia and punished the club financially.

SANOK. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, during a Polish Cup football game Stal Sanok – Legia Warszawa, local nazi-fans displayed a flag on a fence by the field. The flag showed a nationalist symbol of a “hand with sword”, the so called “falanga” – a symbol of pre-World War II Polish fascist movement, which is now used by the National Rebirth of Poland (NOP). They had to take it out immediately after the intervention by the Polish Football Union’s delegate who threatened with ending the match and imposing a financial fine.

VIENNA (AUSTRIA). On September 28<sup>th</sup>, during a UEFA qualification game between FK Austria Vienna and Legia Warszawa, Polish nazi-fans displayed several flags with the Celtic Cross, an international symbol of *white power*, as well as a large banner with the words “*White SS Legion*” (White Legion is a neo-nazi militant group among the Legia fans) and a symbol of stylised swastika, the so called “*wolf’s hook*” used by the armoured SS divisions and the Werwolf terrorist organisation. Also some Austrian “fans” chanted racist slogans: they imitated monkey sounds, chanted “sieg heil” and addressed the Poles as “Polacks” and “Car stealers”, drawing on a xenophobic stereotype of Poles in some Western circles.

## OCTOBER 2006

WROCLAW. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, during a 2<sup>nd</sup> league football match between Śląsk Wrocław and Odra Opole, nazi-fans of the Wrocław team, who had been known for years for their racist attitude, again put a banner with the “*White Power*” slogan on the fence by the field. They also insulted black players of Odra Opole. The Polish Football Union ordered a fine for the Wrocław club, and the Śląsk team would play on its stadium with no audience for the rest of the autumn games round.

ŁÓDŹ. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, during a first-league football game Widzew Łódź – Legia Warszawa, a black defender of the Warsaw team, Dickson Choto from Zimbabwe, was insulted in a racist manner by the nazi-fans of Widzew team. Also, a fight between some players of Widzew and Brazilian players of Legia took place. Later, the players of Legia said that the Brazilians only reacted to a brutal foul by Widzew’s player Jakub Rzeźniczak. The case was considered by the Ekstraklasa League Commission [the committee of the first league]. Choto testified before the commission that Widzew fans imitated monkey sounds and shouted racist insults at black players of Legia: “*You bamboo*”. The Brazilians, Elton and Junior confirmed Choto’s words.

KRAKÓW. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, during a local first-league football game Wisła Kraków – Cracovia Kraków some racist and antisemitic acts were performed by the Wisła’s nazi-fans (insults, chanting anti-Jewish slogans etc.). After the game, in an official letter to the UEFA, managers of Cracovia accused Wisła’s fans of antisemitism. They also charged Nikola Mijajlovic with performing obscene gestures and provoking fans throughout the game. Mijailovic had already been charged and punished for racist behaviour towards a South African Benny McCarthy during the UEFA Cup match against Blackburn Rovers. UEFA punished him with five games ban.

GDAŃSK. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, a rally took place in front of the Gymnasium no. 2 building, gathering several dozen members of the National Rebirth of Poland (NOP) and the National-Radical Camp (ONR), organisations commonly considered neo-fascist, as well as nazi-fans of the football club Lechia Gdańsk. This chauvinist meeting was titled "*Capital punishment for degenerates*" and was inspired by a death of 14-year-old Ania, who had committed suicide probably because of public humiliation by five male peers from her class. During the demonstration, the fascists chanted chauvinist slogans and behaved provokingly towards observers and journalists.

#### NOVEMBER 2006

POZNAŃ. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 150 extreme-right militants attempted to interfere with the Equality March that gathered some 450 people protected by 500 police officers who did not allow any confrontation. The neo-fascist group included activists of the National Rebirth of Poland (NOP) as well as nazi-fans of Lech Poznań football club. They shouted: "*Perverts*", "*Fags to be gassed!*", "*We'll do to you what Hitler had done to Jews*". Police arrested one of the people shouting fascist slogans. In 2006, the Equality March was carried as planned for the first time. In 2004, the March was blocked by its opponents. In 2005, there was an illegal rally instead of the March, because the mayor of Poznan did not allow the demonstration "for security reasons".

#### DECEMBER 2006

OLSZTYN. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, in front of the Olsztyn town hall in the very centre of the city, there was a demonstration of a few dozen members of the NOP, ONR and several nazi-fans of the Stomil Olsztyn football club. They chanted: "*Here is Poland, not Brussels*" (or optionally "*Here is Poland not Tel Aviv*") as well as "*Drug addicts, pigs*" (about anti-fascist activists protesting against this demonstration). Officially, the rally was meant to be an anti-abortion protest but as one of the organisers admitted, "the reason was to integrate nationalist circles of Pomerania, Warmia and Mazury regions".

2007

#### MARCH 2007

KRAKÓW. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, during a Cracovia Kraków vs. Legia Warszawa football game opening the first league's spring season, some of the Warsaw team's fans showed chauvinist attitudes and shouted at the host team: "*Jews, Jews, Jews, all Poland is ashamed of you*".

#### APRIL 2007

CHARKÓW (UKRAINE). On April 1<sup>st</sup>, during a football game Metalist Charków – Dynamo Kijów in Ukraine's first league, Polish player (and a member of Polish national team), Seweryn Gancarczyk, called a black defender of the Kiev club, Ayila Yussufa, a "*black monkey*". Gancarczyk told journalists about the incident: "*This is of course untrue. The situation was that I was to execute a free kick, but despite my requests Ayila didn't want to move away from the ball. So I kicked the ball and it hit him. A few seconds later the referee showed him the yellow card for obstructing the game. And since it was the second rebuke, the boy had to leave the field. He probably wanted to justify his stupidity so he made up this story and made the racist of me publicly*". A day after the game the words of the Nigerian player were quoted by the press throughout Ukraine. During the next league game of Metalist (against an Odessa team) the audience insulted the Polish player.



GDAŃSK. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the tvn24.pl portal revealed that some fans of the first-league speedway club Wybrzeże Gdańsk produced T-shirts with a slogan "*Faithfulness is my honour*", identical to that invented by Adolph Hitler himself for criminals of SS, including concentration camps guards. As the speedway fans themselves said, this might have been an unconscious imitation. However, this statement is contradicted by the fact that the T-shirts' print was based on gothic letters used in the Third reich. The fans from the Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot area (the so-called Triple City) have been known for their infamous attitudes for years, mainly due to activity of neo-nazi militants among football fans of Bałtyk Gdynia and Lechia Gdańsk clubs.

ŁÓDŹ. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, about 3:00 P.M. in the Wolności Square, just before the March Against Racism, when only ten anti-fascist activists gathered (and only four men), there appeared a dozen or so neo-fascists and nazi-fans. The fascists shouted racist slogans, insulted anti-racist activists, approached them violently and stole their flags and banners, then went towards the football stadium to watch the ŁKS Łódź game. The football fans of ŁKS are among the most overtly racist "fans" in Poland.

#### MAY 2007

CHEŁM. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, during a fourth-league football game between Chełmianka Chełm and Łada Biłgoraj, some members of the National Rebirth of Poland (NOP) expressed chauvinist attitudes. They displayed a banner carrying "falanga" – the pre-WWII Polish fascist movement's symbol – as well as huge banner carrying the logo of NOP's homophobic campaign. The same day over 2 thousand chauvinist and nationalist NOP stickers appeared throughout the city.

SZCZECIN. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, after a first-league game Pogoń Szczecin vs. Cracovia Kraków, the Pogoń's coach, Bogusław Baniak, shared his views on Diego, a Brazilian player of Pogoń, with the "*Rzeczpospolita*" daily: "*What he does, he can do at home in the jungle, but not in the football field in Poland*". Despite the clear racist contents of this statement, the coach did not suffer any consequences.

#### JUNE 2007

GDAŃSK. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, during clashes between pseudo-fans and police, which occurred during a second-league football match Lechia Gdańsk vs. Ruch Chorzów, seven police officers were hurt, and two of them severely. Seven fans of Lechia were arrested and interrogated. Among the militants of Lechia, as usual in case of this club's fans, the leading role played nazi-skinheads and nazi-fans, members of the Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot chapter of the neo-nazi organization Blood and Honour.

MAŁOGOSZCZ. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, during a third-league football game between Wierna Małogoszczy and Wisłoka Dębica, nazi fans of the host team displayed a "U.S. confederates" flag on the fence by the field. The flag, used by the racist South in the U.S. Civil War in 19<sup>th</sup> century, is a symbol of the international racist movement, and is often used by neo-fascist militants as their ideological expression. Some Sebastian S. Was wearing a T-shirt with confederate flag and a slogan "South's Justice". In March 2007, in front of the Szczecin club Alter Ego, Sebastian S. had murdered Ronald "Roni" Kalinowski, ex-frontman of anti-racist ska band Vespa. The flag on the stadium in Małogoszcz was confiscated by the police who also arrested two men responsible for displaying it on the fence.

OŚWIĘCIM. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, during an A-class league football game of the Oświęcim group (the seventh-league level) between Unia Oświęcim and LKS Jawiszowice, the nazi-fans of the host team displayed four banners on the fence. The banners carried neo-fascist and racist symbols: the Celtic cross

and numbers “88” (coded symbols for “*Heil Hitler*”) and “14” (fourteen words – the code slogan of the racist terrorists of an American group The Order); the “falanga” banner (with the symbol of Polish pre-WWII fascist movement); the American confederates flag; as well as the pre-WWII German flag that is nowadays banned by German authorities yet often used by German neo-nazi groups. Security forces did not intervene.

LEGNICA. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the managing board of the second-league football team Miedź Legnica co-opted to its ranks Jarosław Jednorą, who was supposed to be responsible for marketing and contacts with the club’s fans. Jednorą is a former nazi-fan of Miedź. His pseudonym used to be “Adolf”. He also used to be a member of the National Rebirth of Poland (NOP) and published in a fascist-oriented magazine “*Krucjata*” [Crusade]: “*Deportations of anyone who is different should be an appropriate solution*”. More recently he displayed a portrait of Adolph Hitler on his web site.

#### AUGUST 2007

VILNIUS (LITHUANIA). On August 7<sup>th</sup>, during the break of a Intertoto Cup football game Vetra Wilno – Legia Warszawa, Polish “fans” entered the field and provoked a fight with the police. The stadium resembled a battle field and the game was ended immediately. The riots spread to the streets. 30 hooligans were arrested by the police and Legia was announced to lose by a walkover. Chauvinist fans of Legia, who were an active part in those riots, due to the club’s authorities restrictions, are unable to engage in similar brawls.

#### OCTOBER 2007

WARSZAWA. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, during a second-league football game between Polonia Warszawa and Stal Stalowa Wola, some racist “fans” of the host team would imitate monkey sounds any time a forward player of Stal, Abel Salami from Cameroon, kicked the ball. The Polish Football Union’s observer did not take any note on this incident. Also security team remained indifferent.

GORZÓW WLKP. On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the police arrested two nazi-skinheads: 21-year-old Dariusz K. and 23-year-old Błażej B. They have been accused of propagating fascism as both had taken part in a reportage by the British TV station Sky One. The police charged the two men with public incitement to racial hate crime. For instance, one of the two men talked about Jews: “*Not all of them were gassed, so the procedure should be carried again*”. The British TV reportage concerned racist stadium militants in Poland (e.g. nazi-skinheads of Stilon Gorzów Wlkp.) and was made in cooperation with the NEVER AGAIN Association. Shortly after being broadcast in England, the material was placed on the You Tube portal and thus reached Polish audience as well.

RZESZÓW. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, during a third-league football game between two local teams, Stal Rzeszów and Resovia Rzeszów, some neo-nazi “fans” appeared who cheered the guests’ team, accompanied by their ideological “comrades” from Germany, of the befriended Arminia Bielefeld club. Among songs and slogans targeting the fans of Stal there were also “traditional” antisemitic themes, such as “*Jude ZKS*” and “*We’ll do to you what Hitler had done to Jews*” etc.

#### NOVEMBER 2007

ŁÓDŹ. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, police arrested a 30-year-old nazi-fan of Widzew Łódź, who publicly propagated fascism. According to the Łódź police department’s spokesman, sub-inspector Mirosław Micor, the man was spotted during a football game by police officers from the special counter-hooliganism

unit. Between April and June 2007, the man was involved in eight incidents of propagating fascism by saluting in a nazi way and shouting fascist slogans publicly. The incidents took place in football stadiums during games as well as in railway stations. The man pleaded guilty and declared his voluntary submission to the 2-year prison sentence suspended for three years and 800 PLN fine. The man had been punished for robbery and beating up in the past.

POZNAŃ. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, a group of neo-fascists interfered with the Equality March. Members of All Polish Youth and nazi-fans of Lech Poznań football club threw eggs upon several hundred demonstrators and shouted at them “*perverts*” and “*fagots*”. After the March, the fascists attempted to beat up several people heading towards trams, but were stopped by police officers protecting the demonstration.

BELGRADE (SERBIA). On November 21<sup>st</sup>, before a Euro 2008 qualifications game between Serbia and Poland, a group of several hundred “fans” of the Polish national team provoked fights with the police and Serbian fans. Polish “militants” came by four buses and they numbered approx. 200. The flags they carried with themselves displayed nazi symbols.

Edited by MARCIN KORNAK

Complete lists of the stadiums’ racism monitoring are published in an antiracist magazine “*Stadion*”.