

The petition, signed by our members was published on 25th of May, 2020.

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English translation:

Esteemed Senators and Deputies to the Sejm of our Republic !

We demand that the Sejm should start work on a draft law on public media which was prepared in 2010 by a Civic Committee for Public Media. According to this draft experts and journalists should have a say in choosing the management of public media. We appeal to politicians of all parties to give journalists the means to work for society at large.

Esteemed Deputy Prime Minister!

We protest against your conception of public media which distorts the ideals originally underlying these media which you presented in your recent interview with RMF FM radio. Favoring only one political option in the public media in no way amounts to a return to media pluralism. Instead it is a glaring violation of the principle of equal access to the public media and marks the appropriation of a common good.

The fact that the state owns the public media in no way permits the state to impose the public media of the message of the party which wins the elections and that the public media should reflect the views of the winning party in successive elections. The fact that there exist commercial media which are critical of the government in which you are a deputy prime minister does not permit the transformation of the public media into a government department and the fact that you used this argument should be treated as nothing other than an alibi.

It is the duty of all politicians, and especially those in the ruling party, to ensure that journalists are able to enjoy the freedom to report on the views of all of our citizens. Despite the fact that the presently ruling United Right (Zjednoczona Prawica) talks of pluralism in the media the government has not improved the situation but has destroyed news and current affairs journalism and replaced it with centers of propaganda which steer public opinion by the way they choose subjects and commentators to deliver their views on what is happening. Presently the public media tell people what they are to think and what they should listen to.

The recent events in the Radio Three channel are symbolic of what is happening elsewhere in Polish Radio. Our managers have been turned into those who have to implement this philosophy which is so harmful to our country. The harm done is doubled by the fact that young people are taught this way of seeing the public media as a mouthpiece of the government in power at any given moment and they will discriminate against you, Deputy Premier, when the present opposition comes to power.

We will establish impartial public media despite the fact that you suggest the opposite. You say that a 'communist heritage' will make this impossible but we do not agree. Despite what you say it is professionals which have built up the public media in past years. Admittedly they were never entirely free of political influence and this is the fault of politicians from all the parties. But the very scale of control over the public media under the rule of the United Right is horrifyingly unprecedented. In many cases you have destroyed many people and wasted their talents, sometimes breaking their moral backbones. At the same time what is important for journalists is that they should not devote themselves to the interests of one party but that they should work for the common good independently of who is in power.

Dear journalists !

We ask you to support our demand, notwithstanding where you work. We must ask politicians to pass an up to date law which would put a dividing line between journalists and the world of politics.

Those of you who still work for the public media should demand the right to impartial reporting in line with European standards. You must refuse to be journalists with a 'political background' tied to only one political option. Your determined stance on this is very important.

Those of you who work for the private media should remember that real public media will never come into being without your support. It is in your interest because strong and independent public media guarantee the stable development of private media. The standards which will be established thanks to strong public media give guarantees that the threat that you might have your independence taken away from you as is happening now in our public media.

Let's get to work as soon as possible – independently of any differences there might be between us.