

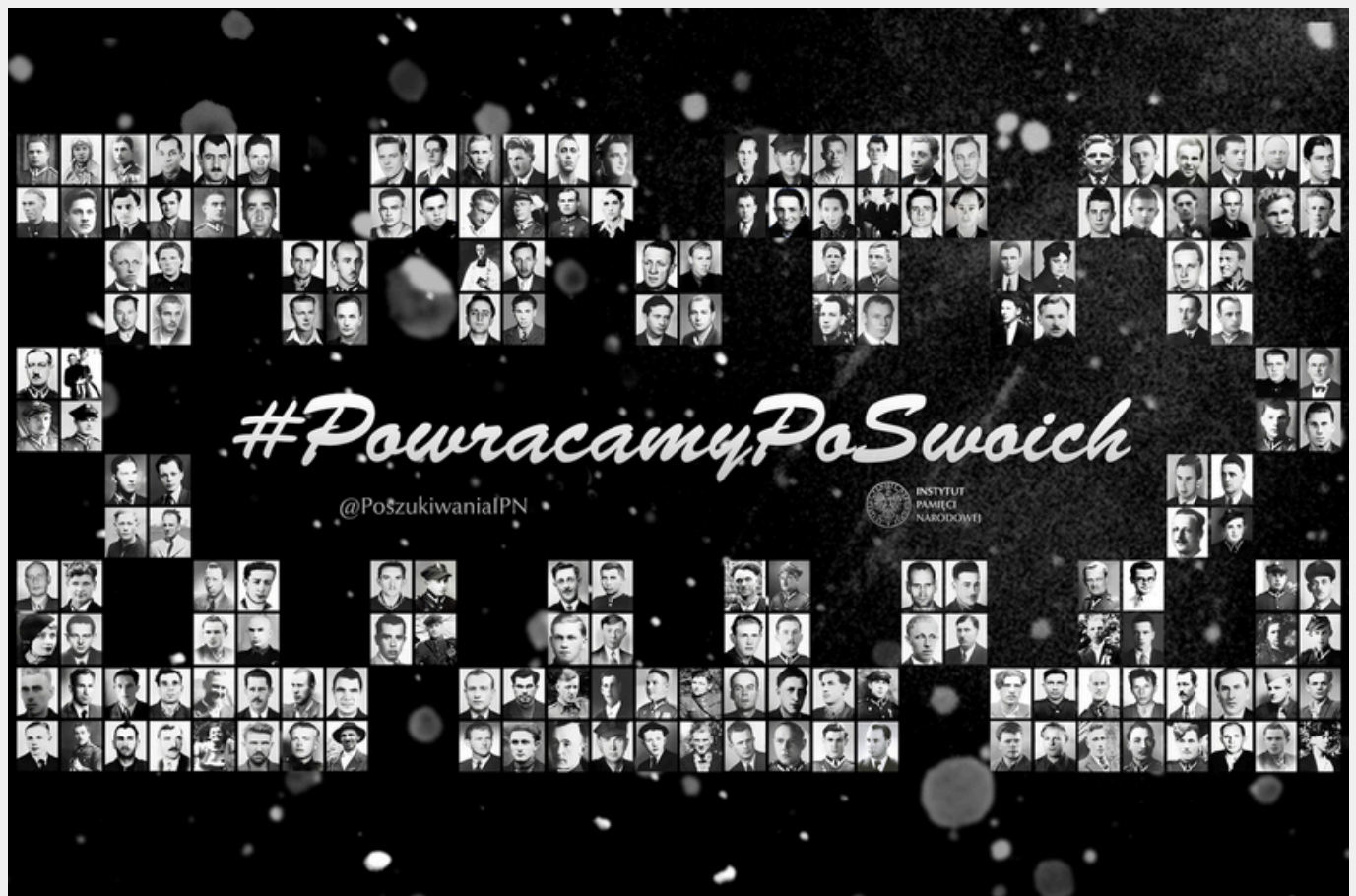
Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/10360,The-ceremony-of-handing-out-identification-notes-to-family-members-of-20-victims.html>

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The ceremony of handing out identification notes to family members of 20 victims of totalitarian regimes - Warsaw, 8 March 2023















During a special ceremony, the relatives of 20 people murdered as a

result of the functioning of totalitarian regimes – their remains found and identified by the IPN Office of Search and Identification – received notes confirming the identity of their family members. The event took place on 8 March 2023 at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw.

Apart from the relatives of the identified, the ceremony was attended by the IPN President Karol Nawrocki, Ph.D., Deputy Presidents Prof. Karol Polejowski, and Prof. Krzysztof Szwagrzyk as well as representatives of the highest state authorities. The event was broadcast on IPNtv.

"The IPN Office of Search and Identification and all employees of the Institute serve Poland to the best of our ability, searching for heroes and refusing to allow even one of them to be forgotten," said the IPN President, Karol Nawrocki during the ceremony.

Such ceremonies are the culmination of years of efforts on the part of the IPN Office of Search and Identification. The work always begins in the archives, where experts try to locate information on a victim's fate and burial. Thorough research not only points to the probable location of their grave, but also determines physical characteristics (such as height, build or suffered injuries), the findings reinforced by witness testimonies.

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The core of the process, involving archaeology and anthropology experts, is the excavation. It is performed in all kinds of terrain in Poland and abroad: in fields and forests, gardens, urban areas and cemeteries. Once the remains are uncovered, they undergo initial anthropological examination on-site, followed by a thorough one in the lab, and a sample of bone matter is taken to be tested against genetic material provided by victims' relatives.

A genetic match means that a person's identity has been confirmed. For the last few years, the IPN has been employing CODIS, a system that the Federal Bureau of Investigation developed to streamline the searching of the genetic material base. Each year, the percentage of people identified using this system has increased, and currently stands at 30 percent.

The Institute of National Remembrance searches for and identifies the victims of totalitarian regimes and ethnic cleansings as part of the activities of the IPN's Office of Search and Identification, in cooperation

with the Chief Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation. The list of names of victims identified so far includes more than 240 people. As a result of the Institute's activities, the remains of more than two thousand people have been located.

The IPN's Office of Search and Identification conducts search activities throughout Poland and abroad. A team of specialists has examined dozens of sites in Poland, and has also conducted work in, among others, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Germany.

The ceremony of handing identification notes to the families is organized in cooperation with the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland.

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