

Institute of National Remembrance

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The premiere of the film "Ponary. Odmiana przez przypadki" , Vilnius, 10 July 2022

















On 10 July 2022 at 6:00 p.m., a screening of the latest documentary film directed by Piotr Kucinski took place at the Museum of Modern Art in Vilnius. The event was attended by IPN Deputy President Mateusz Szpytma Ph.D.

The film is an attempt to present the events which took place in the forests near Vilnius in the years 1941-1944 in chronological order. The mass executions in Ponary were the greatest crime committed during the German occupation of the North-Eastern Borderlands of the Second Polish Republic. The Germans, with the help of Lithuanian collaborators, carried out ethnic cleansings murdering mainly Poles and Jews. Piotr Kucinski's film not only shows the reality of the massacre in an innovative manner, but also presents the opinions of historians and representatives of the youngest generation of Lithuanians .

The screening of the film was followed by a discussion on the massacre

in Ponary, with the participation of Mateusz Szpytma Ph.D. - the Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance - and Prof. Alvydas Nikzentaitis - the President of the Jerzy Giedroyc Polish-Lithuanian Foundation. The meeting was moderated by Barbara Jundo-Kaliszewska (University of Łódź).

The screening was also attended by the participants of the 16th "Polish Diaspora Meetings with Modern History" conference for teachers and educators from around the world, organized by the IPN. This year's conference is predominantly taking place in Vilnius which allows us to learn about the history of the 20th century as seen from the perspective of our neighbors. It is also an opportunity to visit memorial sites. Mateusz Szpytma Ph.D., and the participants of the conference, laid flowers at the monument to the victims of the Ponary massacre.

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