

# Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/brief-history-of-poland/collected-content/4134,COLLECTED-CONTENT-Katyn-Massacre.html>

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## COLLECTED CONTENT: Katyn Massacre

We encourage you to read some educational materials on the subject.



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### The Katyn Massacre timeline

In response to repeated attempts on the part of Russia, aimed at falsifying the truth about Soviet crimes, the Institute of National Remembrance reminds in a nutshell the events that ended in the Katyn Massacre, the crime itself, and later cover-up attempts:



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## At the beginning there was a collusion of silence

In the summer of 1941, during negotiations on the resumption of Polish-Soviet relations, Prime Minister Władysław Sikorski raised the issue of prisoners of war in the USSR. The Soviets had lowered the number of detainees to 20,000 and hid the fact that they had murdered around 8,000 officers of the Polish Army and many other citizens of the Second Polish Republic in the spring of 1940. On 4 July 1941, British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden informed the British envoy to Moscow Stafford Cripps and US Ambassador to London John Winant that there were "only 20,000" Polish prisoners of war, considering the Soviet explanations sufficient...

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## The Katyn lie. Its rise and duration

We would like to present a text authored by Dr Witold Wasilewski, a historian of the Institute of National Remembrance, in which he discusses the Soviet falsification and concealment of the truth about

the Katyń Massacre for almost half a century.

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## Soviet Politburo order for the NKVD to murder Polish Pows and Detainees

80 years ago, the highest Soviet authorities approved Beria's proposal to kill Polish POWs and detainees. The approval was issued as the order no. P13/144, and set in motion the preparations for the Katyn Massacre, followed by the transfer to the execution sites...

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## The IPN's prosecutors on the investigation into the Katyn Massacre

We present the information about the findings of the investigation conducted by the Branch Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation in Warsaw regarding the investigation into the Katyn Massacre...

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## Katyn Massacre: Basic facts

Katyń is a symbol of the criminal policy of the Soviet system against the Polish nation. The present study aims to demonstrate the basic facts of Katyn massacre - the execution of almost 22,000 people: Polish prisoners of war in Katyn, Kharkov, Kalinin (Tver) and also other Polish prisoners (soldiers and civilians), which took place in the spring of 1940 in different places of the Soviet Ukraine and Belarus republics based on the decision of the Soviet authorities...

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## The Katyn Massacre

For many years, the term Katyn Massacre denoted the NKVD's murder of Polish prisoners of war from the Kozelsk camp in Katyn near Smolensk...

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## Katyn - the school of lying of the Polish Workers' Party

On April 11th 1943 the Germans began the propaganda campaign regarding the discovery of mass graves of the Polish officers in Katyń, murdered by the NKVD in 1940. Street megaphones in the General Government for occupied Poland and propaganda press were announcing the victims' names and information of the documents and personal items found on them...

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## German evidence of the Soviet crime from the USA

In the morning, on 11 October 1951, Ray Madden opened the first session of the Select Committee to Conduct an Investigation and Study of the Facts, Evidence, and Circumstances of the Katyn Forest Massacre.

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## Under Katyn's shadow. Reflections on underage and female victims of the Katyn massacre

Since the end of the war, for more than 50 years, any works presenting the crimes of the Soviet occupant were officially forbidden from being distributed in the Polish People's Republic. After all, they were in opposition of the "state truth" of the USSR as the country of wealth, Poland's ally and Allied powers in the fight against fascist Germany...

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To return to the Motherland's womb. A few words on the deported families of the victims of Katyń.

The decisions made by the Soviet authorities in March 1940 regarded the criminal actions towards the Polish citizens. And they were not limited only to the murder decided on by the Politburo of the United Workers' Party on March 5th 1940, but had much larger repercussions...

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"They were shot in the back of the head" - The Katyn Massacre exhibition

The Katyń Massacre - the massacre perpetrated by the NKVD in the spring of 1940 on about 22,000 Polish POWs and prisoners captured after 17 September 1939 left a heavy mark on the pages of Polish history. By Lavrentiy Beria's decision of March 5, 1940, all prisoners held in the prison camps of Kozelsk, Starobyelsk and Ostashkov, and prisons of western Ukraine and Belarus, were labelled "enemies of the Soviet state". Executions began in April and went on until mid-May...

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## Janina Lewandowska - the only servicewoman murdered in Katyn

Janina Antonina Lewandowska was born on 22 April 1908 in Kharkiv. She was a Polish World War II pilot killed by the Soviets in the Katyn Massacre. Her father, Józef Dowbor-Muśnicki, was a Polish General. Janina Lewandowska was one of over 20,000 Polish prisoners of war murdered by Soviet troops in the Katyn Forest in an effort to eliminate Poland's elites...

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## STANISŁAW HALLER (1872-1940)

Stanisław Haller de Hallenburg was a Polish politician and general murdered in the Katyn massacre. He was a cousin of General Józef Haller...

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## The Katyn Massacre - Commemorations

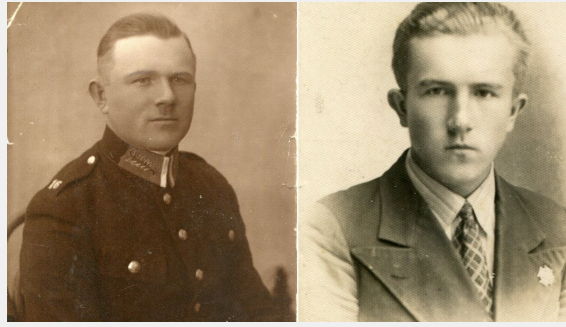
The Katyn Massacre left an unhealed wound in the memory of both the families of the victims and the entire Polish nation. The shock and trauma of loved ones who had to face the loss of their fathers,

husbands or brothers, was deepened by the awareness that they had also been deprived of the chance of a last goodbye, a prayer by their grave, or putting up a cross. There was a natural need to at least symbolically commemorate those who were murdered, to share the pain and to inform the world about this great loss. Holy Masses were ordered for the souls of the deceased, and obituaries were placed in the press - so that at least a transient trace would remain. During World War II it was, paradoxically, possible in the Polish territories occupied by the Third Reich - Katyn hourglasses were posted by such titles as "New Warsaw Courier", "Goniec Krakowski" or "Gazeta Lwowska".



## A father and son, victims of the Katyn Massacre and protagonists of the IPN's exhibition

Jan Ozimek, a police officer from Oszmiana, and his son Staś, 17-year-old scout, shared the fate of thousands of Polish elites - while their family shared the plight of thousands of Polish families from the Soviet-annexed Eastern Borderlands.



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## “Echoes of Katyn” International Film Festival On Totalitarianisms - Warsaw, 22—25 October 2020

2020 marks the 80th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre.  
Therefore, the Institute of National Remembrance has decided to  
inaugurate the “Echoes of Katyn” international film festival, the  
subject of which will cover the broadly understood issue of  
totalitarianism. The symbolic ‘Katyn’ is an occasion to remind the  
public about the criminal totalitarian systems of the 20th century.

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## The Second International Film Festival on Totalitarianisms "Echoes of Katyn", 15—18 April 2021

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3rd edition of the "Echoes of Katyn" on-line  
International Film Festival on Totalitarianisms,  
5—9 April 2022





<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/4760,The-first-Echoes-of-Katyn-International-Film-Festival-on-Totalitarianisms-or-gani.html?sid=c2e1f152d4973644ad00ace31674e42c>

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The 13th Katyn March of Shadows

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The 14th Katyn March of Shadows

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The 15th Katyn March of Shadows



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Opening of the "Ostashkov, Post box No. 37" IPN exhibition



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