

Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/2374,A-ceremony-commemorating-the-victims-of-executions-in-the-Kampinos-Forest-Palmir.html>

09.04.2024, 10:04

16.09.2019

A ceremony commemorating the victims of executions in the Kampinos Forest - Palmiry, 14 September 2019

A patriotic and religious ceremony in Palmiry, with the participation of the IPN's Deputy President Mateusz Szpytma, took place on 14 September 2019.





















The commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II and the victims of German executions in the Kampinos Forest included a mass celebrated by Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz, an ecumenical prayer, a call for the fallen and the laying of wreaths. The anniversary celebrations which took place on 14 September 2019 at the Cemetery-Mausoleum in Palmiry were attended by the Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance, Dr Mateusz Szpytma.

The ceremony was also attended by veterans, parliamentarians, representatives of state authorities, the Polish Army and the local government.

"They walked, tripping over branches, blindfolded, guided by SS officers and gendarmes. (...) When they arrived, they were told to stand over deep pits. The firing squad stood opposite them. And only

later, after the war, small pieces of paper were found beside their remains. These pieces of paper had only one sentence written on them, clearly written in a hurry, the writing uneven and crooked as if the author were terrified: SHOT TO DEATH IN PALMIRY (...) Shame on your executioners. Hail to your memory "- Deputy President of the IPN Dr Mateusz Szpytma read out a letter written by the President of the Institute Dr Jarosław Szarek to the gathered guests.

In his letter the President of the Institute of National Remembrance recalled the circumstances of the execution in Palmiry which lasted from December 1939 at least until July 1941, and as a result of which the Germans murdered a significant part of the Warsaw elite. He assured on behalf of the Institute of National Remembrance that their sacrifice was not in vain and would never be forgotten.

The ceremony at the Cemetery-Mausoleum in Palmiry was attended by: the Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance, Dr Mateusz Szpytma, the Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Minister Andrzej Dera, Minister of National Defense Mariusz Błaszczak, Mazovian Voivode Zdzisław Sipiera, Director of the Kampinos National Park Mirosław Markowski and Warsaw Metropolitan Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz.

About two thousand Polish citizens - Poles and Jews - were killed in Palmiry. They were mainly representatives of the intelligentsia murdered by Germans in dozens of mass executions - artists, social and political activists, officials, the clergy and teachers. Many of them were residents of the capital. In Palmiry, the Germans shot, among

others, the Speaker of the Sejm Maciej Rataj, one of the leaders of the Polish socialists Mieczysław Niedziałkowski, the gold Olympic medalist Janusz Kusociński and writer and editor of the first underground magazine "Polska Żyje" Witold Hulewicz.

The inhabitants of the villages of Palmiry and Pociecha as well as forest service workers, risking their lives, collected information about the victims and tried to mark the area of execution. Thanks to this, exhumation works began here straight after the war. The three concrete crosses that were erected here are a symbol of the suffering of the victims. Their side arms depict the open arms of a defenseless human who is being shot.

On 13 June 1999, Pope John Paul II beatified 108 Polish martyrs - victims of World War II. Among them was a priest murdered in Palmiry - priest Zygmunt Sajna.

The Institute of National Remembrance was a co-organizer of the ceremony.

Opcje strony

- [Print this page](#)
- [Generate PDF of this page](#)
- [Notify about this page](#)

- Share this article

[Share on Facebook](#)

[Share on Twitter](#)