

# Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/4125,The-Institute-of-National-Remembrance-strongly-protests-against-the-new-wave-of-.html>

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The Institute of National Remembrance strongly protests against the new wave of blurring the traces of the Katyn Massacre by the authorities of today's Russia

In the spring of 1940, the Soviet Union, acting against the most elementary principles of civilized humanity, murdered almost 22,000 officers of the Polish Army and other Polish uniformed formations. They were prisoners of war captured by Soviet aggressors during the invasion of Poland, carried out by the USSR together with the German Reich in September 1939.



**STATEMENT**

The graphic features the word "STATEMENT" in large, bold, black capital letters centered on a light gray background. Behind the text is a faint, large-scale watermark of the coat of arms of the Institute of National Remembrance, which depicts a crowned eagle with its wings spread, holding a sword and a cross.

Among the places where the crimes, later referred to as the Katyn Massacre, were carried out, there were facilities belonging to the NKVD-MGB board of the Kalinin Oblast in the present Tver (formerly: Kalinin).

In later years, the Soviet authorities tried to conceal the truth about this crime by attributing it to other perpetrators and cynically using the Katyn lie to strike the Polish state within the anti-German coalition. In 1946, the USSR made an unsuccessful attempt to convict someone else for this crime, calling it genocide, before the Nuremberg Tribunal. To blur the facts about the crime, a monument was built in Katyn to hide the truth about Soviet guilt. For decades people speaking openly about Katyn were persecuted.

It was not until the 1990s that the Soviet authorities decided that lying about Katyn was causing political damage to the USSR that their hypocrisy in this case could no longer be continued. The authorities confessed to the crime, and published relevant, previously classified documents. Yet, in subsequent years, they still refused to disclose the full documentation of the investigation in this case, and over time began to return to various forms of manipulating the truth about the Katyn massacre.

The Russian authorities have recently removed plaques from the building of the former headquarters of the NKVD-MGB regional board in today's Tver which commemorate the victims of the Katyn massacre - prisoners of the Ostashkov camp.

The inscription on one of the plaques reads: "In memory of the prisoners of war in Ostashkov murdered by the NKVD in Kalinin. A warning to the world."

The Institute of National Remembrance strongly protests against the new wave of hypocrisy about the Katyn massacre. Such practices mean that today's Russian state is following in the footsteps of propaganda manipulation and crimes of Soviet Stalinist totalitarianism.

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