

Institute of National Remembrance

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Belarusian study tour in Warsaw, 28-30 November 2013

















Coming to terms with the past and organization of archives were the main areas of interest to a group of eight members of the Belarusian Centre for Documentation. For two days they have attended a seminar with the IPN and its partners. The issues that were most eagerly discussed during the meetings were investigations of the past and vetting.

Belarusian Centre for Documentation is an NGO officially registered in Vilnius. It collects documentation, monitors and documents violation of human rights and gives legal assistance to the oppressed.

In the IPN the Belarusian human rights defenders met with representatives of the educational and archival departments, who presented the main areas of the Institute's work.

The staff of the *Karta* Foundation presented Belarusians with the beginnings of the *Karta* archive in the 80s (especially the Eastern Archive and the Archive of the Opposition), current archival and educational projects and *Karta*'s Belarusian program. In the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights the group had the opportunity to learn

about the history of the Helsinki Committee in Poland, its work from the 80s and the work of the Helsinki Foundation today. A separate meeting was also held with the director of Belarusian TV Belsat, a democracy tv project, resembling media ventures such as Radio Free Europe.

The third day was devoted to historical tourism. The Belarusian guests visited the Warsaw Rising Museum. At the Powązki Military Cemetery they learnt about the Institute's work regarding exhumation and identification of victims of the communist terror. They also visited the Museum of bl. Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko.

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