

Institute of National Remembrance

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A delegation from Albania visited the IPN – October 2022

On 24—25 October 2022, the Institute of National Remembrance hosted Albanian representatives of the School of Judges of the Republic of Albania, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).











The visit was organized by the IPN's Office of International

Cooperation. The guests were officially welcomed by Agnieszka Jędrzak, Director of the Office. She presented the structure of the IPN and its investigative, educational and archival activities. She added that the structure of the IPN had recently expanded with the addition of new offices: the New Technologies Division that had introduced a popular "Cyphers Game," translated into fifteen languages; the Office of Cultural Events, which disseminates history through art; and History Points Office. She mentioned an important aspect of the Institute's work, which is reacting to distortions of historical truth. In addition, she presented the IPN's efforts to decommunize the public space in Poland and dismantle the monuments of gratitude to the Red Army.

The Prosecutor Tomasz Kaminski from the Chief Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation gave a historical outline of the IPN's investigative division, whose roots go back to the Commission for Investigation of German Crimes, established in 1945. He discussed the differences arising from the classification of crimes against humanity and communist crimes. He also presented the Polish Supreme Court resolution relating to the limitation period for communist crimes.

The last part of the meeting at the IPN headquarters was a lecture by Marek Hańderek, Ph.D., representative of the Historical Research Office, who introduced to the history of political transformation in Poland and society reactions to the democratic transition.

An integral part of the program was a visit to the IPN Memorial Chamber at 8 Strzelecka Street, dedicated to the prisoners of the

former NKVD detention center. The guests learned about the inscriptions on the walls testifying to the detention, brutal interrogation and murder of soldiers of the Polish anti-communist underground in the basement of the building at 8 Strzelecka St.

The Albanian delegation also visited the IPN's Archives. The guests were welcomed by the director of the IPN Archives, Marzena Kruk. During the meeting Magdalena Molczanowska, head of the Department of Archival Research and Education, presented the resources and tasks of the IPN Archives. As part of the visit, our guests visited the archives inventory, where they had the opportunity to see the conditions of storage and preservation of archival materials. They also learned about the procedures for recruiting and registering agents of the communist secret services.

Another part of the agenda was a workshop organized by the IPN's Office of Search and Identification. The purpose of the workshop was to share the methodology of conducting search and identification work. The Deputy Director of the Office, Anna Szeląg presented the history of the search for the remains of the victims of terror in Poland, and spoke about the current activities of the Office. The IPN experts discussed various stages of work, the specifics of conducting field activities, the process of genetic identification and the use the IPN Genetic Material Database and the CODIS system.

At the end of the visit the participants visited the section of the Powązki Cemetery, the so-called "Łączka", where Rev. Tomasz Trzaska from the IPN's Office of Search and Identification talked about the

search work having been carried out at the site and its results.

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