



THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection

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Warsaw, 14/07/2009.

Mr Thomas Hammarberg
Commissioner for Human Rights
of the Council of Europe
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FRANCE

Dear Thomas,

Racially motivated threats and attacks against Poles seem to be more and more common in the United Kingdom. Within past few days new illustrations of the problem have been reported by the media.

The message delivered last week in form of a leaflet to centres in Belfast representing the city's Islamic, Indian and Polish communities, in advance of last weekend's high point of the loyalist marching season was extremely brutal: "Get out of our Queen's country before our bonfire night and parade day".

As Belfast Telegraph (11 July) reports: "Racist incidents are already running at a rate of almost a thousand a year, mostly taking the form of attacks on migrants and their homes. Many of these live in or close to loyalist areas and are therefore vulnerable".

It has also been reported (The Scotsman, 13 July) that a Polish man, Jaroslaw Janeczek, was in serious condition in Aberdeen hospital after a brutal racist attack which police are treating as attempted murder. Detective Inspector Cammy Preston quoted by the newspaper admitted that: "This was a brutal, apparently unprovoked and sustained attack with what we believe to be a racist element".

Polish citizens who benefit as migrant workers from the freedoms of movement and work in an EU country are subject of serious concern for Polish Ombudsman. I note that the UK Police seem to be very sensitive to racially motivated crimes. However, call for preventive rather than post facto measures is rather urgent. Being far from exaggeration I would like to bring your attention to the above-mentioned incidents which from the perspective of fundamental rights protection in the European Union are very serious.

*Yours,
Janusz*