

**Hon. Andrzej Duda**

**President of the Republic of Poland**

July 21st, 2017

Dear Mr. President,

We, the non-governmental organizations, members of the Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity (CROSOL) from Croatia hereby appeal to you, Mr. President, to veto three acts regarding the functioning of the justice system in Poland.

Croatia and Poland have established new partnerships around the Three Seas Initiative. We are happy that Croatian and Polish people will have more opportunities to collaborate. However, the recent developments related to Polish Government through which independent judiciary, media, and civil society are attacked are fully unacceptable to us. This is the model of ruling the country which we have all experienced during the communist regimes. You, as the President of Poland, have a huge responsibility to stop these trends.

The Acts concerning the National Council of the Judiciary in Poland, common courts and the Supreme Court altogether shatter the independence of the judiciary and seriously breach the rule of separation of powers - fundamental to democratic states ruled by law.

For many of us activists working on human rights and democratization issues, Poland used to be a beacon of peaceful transition to the rule of law and protection of fundamental freedoms. The constitutional crisis initiated in 2015 has seriously undermined the role of Poland as a leader of democratic changes in the region.

We appeal to you, Mr. President, not to disregard the heritage of Polish fight for freedom and basic rights. It is up to you to uphold the right to a fair trial by an independent court for everybody under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Poland.

Sincerely,

Gordan Bosanac

President of the CROSOL Board