

URGENT ACTION

INVESTIGATION CLOSED AGAINST ACTIVISTS

On 19 May, Polish authorities closed the investigation launched in June 2020 against two activists for 'theft and burglary' in relation to a poster campaign accusing the government of manipulating COVID-19 statistics. The Prosecutor confirmed that the two activists did not commit the alleged crimes and dropped all charges against them.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

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The two activists were detained in June 2020 in the context of an investigation that was launched into the replacement of bus advertisements with posters on 29 and 30 May 2020. The posters alleged that the government manipulated COVID-19 statistics, depicting the Minister of Healthcare dressed as a Knight of Malta holding a sign that read 'Gospel of Łukasz Sz.' and listed other allegations against him.

They were charged with the offence of 'theft and burglary' on the basis of article 279.1 of the Criminal Code, punishable with one to 10 years in prison.

Amnesty International expressed concern that such charges were baseless and appeared to be intended to punish the two activists for their criticism of the authorities in a way that is consistent with a pattern of harassment of protesters and activists in Poland documented by the organization since 2017.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Names withheld at the request of the activists. Anna (she/her); other activist (he/him).

THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 97/20

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur37/2513/2020/en/>

