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Poland: Solidarity leaders support protests against government crackdown

In response to news that the central figures from the Solidarity Movement, Lech Wałęsa and Władysław Frasyniuk, are throwing their support behind today's opposition protests in Warsaw, Gauri van Gulik, Deputy Europe Director of Amnesty International said:

“The leaders of Solidarity taking to the streets after decades highlights the seriousness of the situation in Poland.”

“A crackdown on peaceful protesters and silencing of critical voices within public media and the judiciary are very disturbing. Today's protests have brought Poles of diverse ages and backgrounds onto the street to make clear that these draconian restrictions cannot and will not be tolerated.”

Background

Lech Wałęsa and Władysław Frasyniuk published a joint [statement](#) last week saying that they “are opposing restrictions of civil liberties and freedom of assembly.”

Amnesty International will be monitoring the protests in Warsaw on and will continue to scrutinize the use of criminal and administrative law against protesters in Poland. After the protests in June, Amnesty International called on the Polish authorities to ensure that people are able to take part in demonstrations as a means of expressing their views.

On Saturday, Lech Walesa was hospitalised and announced that he won't be attending the protest on 10 July.

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