



NACZELNA RADA ADWOKACKA

ul. Świętojerska 16, 00-202 Warszawa
tel. 22 505 25 00, 22 505 25 01, fax 22 505 25 08
e-mail: nra@nra.pl www.nra.pl

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Human Rights Commission of the Polish Bar Council

ul. Świętojerska 16,
00-202 Warsaw

His Excellency

Xu Jian
Ambassador
of the People's Republic of China
in Warsaw

NRA-015.2.3.2016

Your Excellency,

In view of the recent press announcements and information available to international organizations regarding the situation of lawyers and activists involved in defending human rights in the People's Republic of China, it is with deep concern that the Human Rights Commission of the Polish Bar Council draws attention to the absence of improvement in the conditions in which they operate and notorious attempts to restrict their activities by persecution, intimidation and discrimination.

The Commission observed such actions on the part of the public authorities of the People's Republic of China against the activities of human rights supporters in 2015 with deep disapproval; in its view these activities are systemic and permanent in nature.

Another fact which the Commission finds deeply disconcerting is that no improvement has taken place in the position of lawyers involved in protecting human rights over the past year, while the government of the People's Republic of China remains passive and fails to intervene or take up any initiative to improve their situation.

The Commission would like to emphasize that it is very important that the government of every country creates conditions for individuals to carry out their professional and social activity, particularly in the area of human rights protection.

The Commission reiterates its solidarity with the lawyers operating in the People's Republic of China in this undoubtedly very difficult period for them. For this reason the Commission also supports the international activities of lawyers' organizations associated with the initiative „The Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2017”, taking place on 24 January 2017.

Advocate Justyna Metelska

President of the Human Rights Commission

of the Polish Bar Council