



COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Adam Bodnar

Warsaw, 31.07.2020

Her Excellency
Georgette Mosbacher
Ambassador of the United States
of America to Poland

I would like to inform you that it was with great sadness that I learned about the passing of Congressman John Lewis, one of the most prominent contemporary fighters for human rights.

His life is a remarkable example of courage, consistency and attachment to values. Fighting against racism since the 1960s, demanding justice and equality before the law, he repeatedly risked his life and faced persecution. He paid a high personal price in order to, together with Martin Luther King and other civil rights fighters, change America and restore dignity to people. His achievements and his story have influenced the whole world of freedom over time.

Recent events related to the murder of George Floyd show that John Lewis' mission should not end with his passing. Police brutality and racist practices are not yet history but the reality that gave birth to the Black Lives Matter movement and mass protests around the world.

I would like to emphasize that the ideals to which John Lewis was committed are extremely close to me. His death is a great loss to all of us, to everyone who respects human dignity and human rights, who believes that in the 21st century there is no place for racism or systemic hatred and violence.

Madame Ambassador, I would appreciate if you would convey my heartfelt condolences to the family, relatives and colleagues of the Deceased.