



OGÓLNOPOLSKI
ZWIĄZEK ZAWODOWY
LEKARZY

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This year in Poland, we have witnessed a troubling increase in acts of aggression against medical professionals providing essential care to patients. Disturbingly, two of these incidents have resulted in fatalities.

The first incident involved Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel responding to a call for help, only to be attacked with a knife by the very individual who sought assistance. Tragically, one EMT lost his life at the hospital despite heroic efforts to save him, while the other sustained serious injuries. In response, both the Minister of Health and the Minister of Internal Affairs committed to enhancing the safety of medical professionals and imposing stricter penalties for assaults on healthcare providers.

On April 29th, our colleague Dr. Tomasz Solecki was brutally murdered by a patient in an outpatient clinic at the Clinical Hospital during an appointment with another patient. This horrific act has left our entire medical community in shock and heightened our concerns about safety while we carry out our vital work. We must take immediate action to protect those who dedicate their lives to caring for others.

Following this incident, the media reported numerous non-fatal acts of aggression. What is particularly concerning is that many negative comments were posted under those reports, with some justifying these acts by blaming doctors for public health inadequacies.

As a form of protest on May 6th, we gathered outside our workplaces to pay respect to our murdered colleague and to demonstrate our unity.

On May 10th, we marched silently through the streets of Warsaw to appeal for safety and respect for medical staff. We concluded our march at the Ministry of Health, where the minister received our petitions: to grant a pension for the child of the murdered doctor, to ensure adequate legal protection for healthcare providers, and to create mechanisms to improve the safety of medical personnel in facilities while safeguarding their personal data.

We will continue to put pressure on our government to provide us with safety and proper protection.