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Mr. Andrzej Duda

President of the Polish Republic

Presidential palace

Ulica Krakowskie Przedmieście 46/48

Warsaw – Poland

Dear Mr President,

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, your country has distinguished itself for the generous care it has provided to Ukrainian refugees. Poland has immediately opened its borders, giving hospitality to millions of fleeing Ukrainians, also setting an example to other European countries.

However, as a member of ACAT-Switzerland (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture), I must at the same time express my deep disappointment at Poland's treatment of a few hundred non-Ukrainian refugees. These Afghans, Iraqis, Syrians or Iranians are also fleeing a war situation or at least, very dire human rights violations. For this reason, I cannot understand on what grounds the authorities of Poland so ostentatiously discriminate against them, in comparison with Ukrainian refugees.

ACAT-Switzerland is affiliated to FIACAT (International Federation of ACATs), an NGO in Participative status with the Council of Europe, Consultative Status with the United Nations and Observer Status with the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

I remind you of the obligations and commitments on the protection of migrants your State subscribed too at the international and Council of Europe levels, as the 1951 Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture (CEPT). I also draw your attention to your present EU obligations under the Schengen/ Dublin system, which is in the process of being revised by the EU competent authorities.

Such discriminations could be viewed as violations of fundamental human rights, well as of human dignity and non-discrimination, which are core and first purposes of the United Nations.  Considering the strong risks for the Human Rights, and the life itself, of the rejected people, such an unfavourable treatment of people according to their country of origin could also be regarded as an infringement of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to which your country is party.

Certain that you will listen to my request, I thank you for your attention and send you my best regards.

**Copy**: Ms. Iwona Kozlowska, Poland Ambassador to Switzerland, Elfenstrasse 9, Postfach 3000, Bern 16, Switzerland