

# The Telegraph

## Polish authorities urged to act after far-right activist bans Jews from his guesthouse

Matthew Day, Warsaw  
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The World Jewish Congress has said it is deeply disturbed by the Polish government's failure to act and remove an anti-Semitic banner hung on the gate of a guesthouse barring Jews from entering.

Stating "Entry forbidden to Jews, Commies and all thieves and traitors of Poland," the banner appeared on a guesthouse owned by Piotr Rybak in the south-west town Cesarzowice, near the city of Wrocław.

Well-known in Polish far-right circles, Mr Rybak was turned away at the UK border in June while on his way to attend a Britain First rally.

The banner incident comes amid rising concern over the strength and growing audacity of the far-right in Poland.

"Given Poland's history, we would have expected the authorities to act forcefully and swiftly to put a stop to such activity, which is illegal and utterly contravenes the democratic norms Warsaw is committed to upholding," Robert Singer, the World Jewish Congress's CEO, said in a statement.

He added that the banner "conjures up memories of ghetto benches and other chilling manifestations of anti-Semitism in Poland in the late 1930s".

Mr Rybak gained notoriety in Poland last year when he was convicted of inciting racial hatred after burning a Jewish effigy at a far-right demonstration. But so far the Polish authorities have made no move against him despite the banner appearing to break anti-hate crime and discrimination laws.

Rafal Pankowski from the anti-racism group Never Again and an expert on the Polish far-right, said there now appeared to be an "inability or unwillingness" on the part of the authorities to deal with a racist incidents.

Law and Justice, Poland's ruling party, has been accused of fostering a climate of xenophobia by using nationalist rhetoric and linking migrants to disease and crime, which, in turn, its critics claim, has led to an apparent rise in racist incidents.

"Before the refugee crisis we got a few reports of racist incidents every week, now we get a few a day," Mr Pankowski told The Telegraph. "We can see a correlation between the hate speech being made at high levels and physical attacks. Rybak is a symptom of a growing social acceptance of xenophobia."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/27/polish-authorities-urged-act-far-right-activist-bans-jews-guesthouse/>