



Warsaw, 17 August 2009

REPUBLIC OF POLAND
Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection

Dr Janusz KOCHANOWSKI

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H.E.
Victor Ashe
Ambasador USA w Polsce
Al. Ujazdowskie 29/30
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Dear Victor,

In the name of the friendship of our two nations and our friendship may I ask you, towards the end of your extremely fruitful mission to our country, to employ all your personal and institutional authority to give support to a desperate request for meeting with families of victims, addressed to the President of the United States by Mrs Henryka Pietrzak-Varga, mother of late Jan Pawel Pietrzak and mother-in-law of his late wife Quiana Jenkins-Pietrzak.

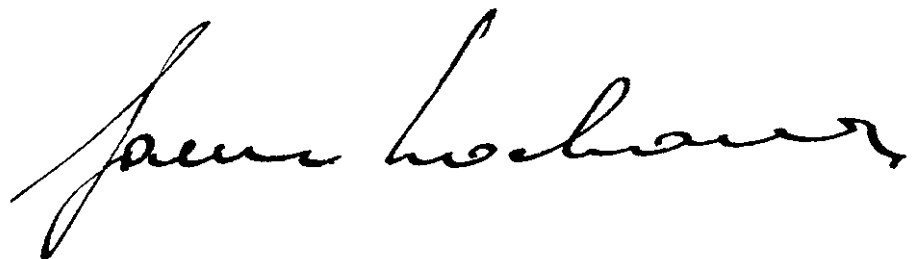
The couple was savagely killed last year and I feel obliged to recall the horrid facts related to this crime. US Marine Corps Sergeant Jan Pawel Pietrzak was a Polish-American who joined the United States Marine Corps in 2003. After a tour in Iraq as a helicopter mechanic, Mr Pietrzak returned to the United States, where he met and married Ms Jenkins, an African-American. Together, they owned and lived in a house in Winchester, located near the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, where Mr Pietrzak worked. On October 15, 2008, a group of four African-American Marines entered the Pietrzak's home, brutally raped Mrs Jenkins-Pietrzak as her husband was forced to watch and tortured the couple for several hours before killing them. A fire was set in the home, apparently to destroy evidence of the crime. Two of the four accused Marines worked under Mr Pietrzak's command. Despite efforts to convey the event as being racially motivated and the fact that the family was not well off, authorities maintain the motivation was robbery. Despite this conclusion by the

investigators, the couple's parents believe that there was a possible racial motive, particularly since Mrs Jenkins-Pietrzak was raped and the Pietrzaks were tortured before being killed execution style. Moreover, racist messages were sprayed on the walls of the couple's house.

Many of us have accompanied and hailed the great American nation in your historic election of the first African-American US President. This election, apart from a political choice, has become a powerful symbol of wiping away absurd racial divisions and prejudice which still exist in the world and are contrary to fundamental dignity of every human person.

As the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection and as a human being I cannot remain indifferent to the sufferings and feeling of injustice which accompany the families of the deceased couple. Our strong and honest reaction to this unspeakable crime should in my view become a powerful expression of sensitivity towards the sufferings of every individual and a beacon light of solidarity of Poles and Americans united together against violations of human dignity.

With kindest regards and friendship

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Lechman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J' and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.