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Letter to the Editor: Congressman McGovern should not have signed letter defaming Poland

Rep. James P. McGovern (D-Massachusetts, 2nd District) is among several House members who have signed a letter to the State Department that unjustly accuses Poland of enacting a law that promotes "Holocaust distortion and the honoring of Nazi collaborators."

To the contrary, that law defends the truth about Poland and the Holocaust. It prohibits the imputation of collective guilt to the Polish state and the entire Polish population as a whole for the Holocaust committed by Nazi Germany on Polish soil.

It does not, as often falsely claimed, prohibit recognition of the guilt of the few rogue Polish individuals and groups who collaborated with the Germans.

The law was prompted by erroneous references to "Polish Death Camps." The camps were established and operated by the Germans; any Poles in them were prisoners and victims.

The vast majority of the roughly 20 million Poles under German occupation were innocent bystanders who could not have stopped Nazi crimes, not guilty bystanders as some would have it.

Israel has a law to prohibit Holocaust denial; why shouldn't Poland prohibit what scholars concede are Holocaust falsehoods?

Rep. McGovern should not have signed such a defamatory letter.

Charles Chotkowski,
Director of Research,
Holocaust Documentation Committee,
Polish American Congress
Fairfield, Connecticut

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