**VOORBEELDBRIEF**

(plaats, datum)

Dear Minister of Interior,

I am writing to express my concern about the detention of two activists and the charges brought against them on 10 June in relation to a posters campaign in Warsaw accusing the government of manipulating COVID-19 statistics on 29 and 30 may 2020. The two activists were charged with the offence of ‘theft and burglary’ based on article 279.1 of the Criminal Code, punishable with 1 to 10 years prison sentence.

The right to freedom of expression, as enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Poland is a party, protects the creation and distribution of posters such as this, even if they are critical of the authorities. Amnesty International is concerned that these charges are baseless and appear to be intended to punish the activists for their criticism of the authorities in a way that is consistent with a pattern of harassment of protesters and activists documented by the organization since 2017 in Poland.

I therefore urge you to ensure that the investigation against the two activists for ‘theft and burglary’ is closed and the charges are dropped immediately.

(naam, adres en handtekening)

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| **STUUR DE BRIEF NAAR:**  Minister of Interior Mr Mariusz Kamiński  Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji  ul. Stefana Batorego 5  02-591, Warszawa  Polen  E: kancelaria.glowna@mswia.gov.pl | **EN EEN KOPIE NAAR:**  Ambassade van Polen Ambassadeur Mr. Artur Orzechowski  Stevinstraat 139  1000 Brussel  E: bebruamb2@msz.gov.pl |