THE APPEAL OF THE POLISH CHILDREN OF WAR, SURVIVORS OF THE NAZI GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMP FOR POLISH CHILDREN IN ŁÓDŹ, AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

As a result of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, we are now witnesses of the most serious armed conflict in Europe since the end of World War II. Every day we see shocking images of towns and cities being demolished by the inhuman Russian war machine. Not only Ukrainian soldiers, but also civilians are ruthlessly killed. Families are being torn apart – fathers are forced to stay at the front, while mothers and children seek rescue in exile, primarily in Poland.

We, the Polish Children of War, the Survivors, and the families of former prisoners of the *Polen-Jugendverwahrlager der Sicherheitspolizei in Litzmannstadt* – the Nazi German Concentration Camp for Polish Children in Łódź, cannot passively watch the suffering of Ukrainian children who remained in the cities surrounded and shelled by Russian troops. Children who travel dozens and hundreds of miles to find safe haven in foreign lands. Children whose carefree time of growing up was brutally interrupted by the horrors of war, just as it happened to us 80 years ago.

We appeal to all people of good will to make every effort to end this bloody conflict. Let us remember that for the youngest, the nightmare of war does not end when the gunshots stop. Child victims of war will carry the baggage of wounds and dramatic memories throughout their adult lives, just as we carried our own baggage of war experiences. We must do everything we can to ensure that as few girls and boys as possible are marked with a similar stigma for the future.

The appeal was signed on behalf of the attendees by:

- National Coordination Team for Associations and Societies of Polish Children of War;

Augustyn Wiernicki, President

 A representative of the Survivors, former prisoners of the Nazi German Concentration Camp for Polish Children in Przemysłowa Street in Łódź;

Jerzy Jeżewicz

- Founding members of the Association of Families of Former Prisoners of the Concentration Camp

in Przemysłowa Street;

Andrzej Kasiński Piotr Piotrowski

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Maria Raf

Iwona Maciejewska-Kawczyńska