

## Polish priest tortured in custody



ks. Michał Olszewski / screen YT - profetopl

**Father Michał Olszewski, a suspect in the “Justice Fund” scandal, experienced severe and torturous conditions of detention in Warsaw pre-trial detention centre, including denial of water and restroom access.**

According to his letter, his handcuffs were not removed even during moments of duress, leading to severe personal indignities. The priest describes being offered a half bottle of tap water and being told to urinate in a bottle in his cell.

Father Michał Olszewski, the head of the Profeto Foundation, described the shocking conditions during his detention in the Warsaw-Służewiec detention center. The priest accused the staff of serious human rights violations, such as denial of access to water and toilets and humiliating treatment. His lawyer, Krzysztof Wąsowski, announced an intervention with both the Polish ombudsman and international organizations.

Father Olszewski, who was arrested at the end of March in connection with allegations related to the scandal related to the Justice Fund, described his experiences in a private letter, which was made public by the weekly "Sieci" and the daily "Gazeta Polska".

“It turned out that I was under ‘special surveillance.’ Hence, the camera and handcuffs, even during walks, isolation from others [...], being woken up by lights every hour throughout the night! That was the situation for the first two weeks of custody,” the priest describes.

**According to the 1984 UN Convention against Torture**, - “any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed.”



## Article 40 of the

**Polish Constitution states:** “No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. The use of corporal punishment is prohibited.”

**In Australia, where I live the Criminal Code 1889- Sect 320A says:** a person who torturers ‘another person commits a crime. Maximum penalty – 14 years imprisonment”.

**The District Court in Warsaw** recently extended the detention of Fr. Olszewski for another three months, despite the objections of his legal team regarding improper conduct of procedures and bias in the judiciary. In response, Wąsowski criticized the court's decision, arguing that it reflected a lack of involvement in all the relevant facts of the case and at the same time pointing to a potentially biased position towards his client.

The scandal with the Justice Fund, in which Father Olszewski is a suspect, is related to prosecutors' allegations that 66 million euros from a special fund could have been embezzled during the times of the former conservative Minister of Justice Zbigniew Ziobro.

In Poland people already have started their protests around all country.



fot. B. Kalich



fot. B. Kalich



Protest w obronie ks. Olszewskiego (fot. B. Kalich - Niezależna.pl)



Zamanifestuj w obronie ks. Michała Olszewskiego (fot. B. Kalich - / plakat protestu w Katowicach)

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**Sources:** Szokujący list ks. Michała Olszewskiego z aresztu. <https://radiowarszawa.com.pl>

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