



## JUSTYNA KULAWIK

On 31 May 1947 in Zwoleń, the District Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Radom, this in the person of its member, Deputy Prosecutor J. Skarżyński, acting pursuant to Article 20 of the provisions introducing the Code of Criminal Procedure, interviewed the person mentioned hereunder as a witness, without taking an oath. The witness stated as follows:

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Name and surname	Justyna Kulawik
Age	38 years old
Parents' names	Stanisław and Maria
Place of residence	Zwoleń, Praga Street 1
Occupation	teacher
Religion	Roman Catholic
Criminal record	none
Relationship to the parties	none

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On the evening of 16 May 1944, during a campaign of mass arrests, some Gestapo men came to my flat looking for my husband. Having determined that he was absent, they detained me in his stead. My husband had managed to escape from our flat just in time. I was taken in the morning, while our children, at the time aged 3 and 9, were left at home without any care. The Germans offered to release me if I gave them the address at which my husband was hiding, however I did not agree to their proposal. Detainees of both sexes were kept through the night in a few crowded classrooms of the Agricultural School in Zwoleń, all the time forced to maintain a standing position. From Zwoleń, we were taken to the prison in Radom. I myself was released on 18 June 1944.



I witnessed many of the brutalization and torture techniques used by the prison guards and the Gestapo in Radom. Beating prisoners until they lost consciousness was a method routinely employed during interrogations. Clothing washed in the prison laundry would contain pieces of human flesh. During his examination, Doctor Flak – who was from the group arrested in Zwoleń on 16 May [19]47 [1944] – was pounded with rubber truncheons for 2 hours non-stop. I saw prisoners who had been interrogated with such savagery and viciousness that their faces had literally ceased to exist.

My husband was the school headmaster. I do not know whether he belonged to an organization fighting for the independence of Poland. Neither do I know if his planned arrest was political in nature, or whether it was simply part of a general campaign of repression against the Polish intelligentsia. The following behaved with particular cruelty: Lechowski, a Polish prison guard in Radom, Koch (from the political division), and all the Gestapo functionaries in Radom.