

Marek (Antoni) Nowicki

Marek A. Nowicki, human rights lawyer, was the UN appointed International Ombudsperson in Kosovo, from July 2000 to December 2005. Mr Nowicki was a member of the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg from March 1993 until 31 October 1999. From December 1997 to November 1998, he was Vice-President of the Second Chamber of this Commission.

From 1982, during the period of martial law in Poland, Mr Nowicki was a columnist for the underground press, a dissident with the Polish "Solidarity" movement. At the same time, he was co-founder and activist of the Helsinki Committee in Poland. From 1989 to 1991 he was a spokesperson of this Committee and was also co-author of all of its reports on the human rights situation in Poland, including a report on Poland under martial law published in 1983. Due to his activities within the human rights movement, he was prohibited from practising as a lawyer during this time.

From 1990 to 1993, he was a member of the Executive Committee of International Helsinki Federation of Human Rights (IHF) in Vienna. From 1992 to 1993, he served as its president. During this period he participated in fact-finding missions of the IHF to Romania, Bulgaria and Albania.

At the same time, he was the founder and president of the Human Rights Commission of the Polish Bar. He has been a member of the Polish Bar since 1987. From 1995 to 1998, he was also a member of the National Council of the Polish Bar.

Mr Nowicki was a funding member of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw and became its president in November 2003 (till January 2008). He was a member of the Council of the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association (HRI IBA) and of the Advisory Council of the European Roma Rights Centre in Budapest. Today, he is still an active member of the Advisory Council of the International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights in London (INTERIGHTS).

He was one of the "eminent lawyers" appointed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to assess the legal and human rights situation in Moldova (1994) and Azerbaijan (1997). From 2000 to 2001, Mr Nowicki was a member of the Committee of Special Advisors to the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, dealing with just satisfaction in cases of human rights violations.

In 1996 and 1998, the Council of Europe asked him to serve as a human rights expert during the evaluation of the compatibility of the legal systems of Georgia and the Russian Federation with the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights. He served as a human rights expert for the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe.

Since March 2003 to September 2006, Mr Nowicki was Polish member of the EU Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights.

In September 2005 he was nominated by the Committee of Ministers one of three candidates for the post of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe (elections on 5th of October 2005: second after Mr T. Hammarberg, the elected Commissioner).

Mr. Nowicki is the author of dozens of books and hundreds of articles on human rights published in Poland and abroad. He is also a lecturer at Collegium Civitas in Warsaw.

Since January 2007 Mr. Nowicki is a member of the UN Human Rights Advisory Panel in Kosovo and from January 2008 its president.