

# TVN24 NEWS IN ENGLISH 2021-12-21

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### Ruins next to new investments. Post-war Warsaw captured by Adolf Duszek

A very valuable collection of post-WWII Warsaw photographs taken by Adolf Duszek has been discovered by his daughter Maria Anioł in their family home in Stare Bielany neighbourhood. Photography was Duszek's passion, especially documenting Poland's capital Warsaw in the 1950s, when the city was being rebuilt after being razed to ground by Nazi Germany. Bielany district authorities announced that an album with these amazing images would be published next year.

# Citizen Lab: phones of Roman Giertych and Ewa Wrzosek infected with Pegasus spyware

Polish attorney and government critic Roman Giertych's phone was hacked with the use of Pegasus system at least 18 times in 2019, according to an analysis carried out by Citizen Lab researchers. Pegasus is a surveillance tool that provides its operator complete access to a target's mobile device, allowing the operator to extract passwords, files, photos, web history, contacts, as well as identity data.

### Timmermans: EU Commission will protect free speech and freedom of media

Commenting on the controversial media reform bill passed by Polish parliament last week, vice-president of the European Commission Frans Timmermans told TVN24 on Monday he was deeply concerned, as " free media are of the essence of in every member state of the European Union". He also assured that if the bill becomes actually becomes law, "the Commission will review the bill and will take appropriate action, if necessary".

### Decision to allow judge Juszczyszyn back to courtroom immediately revoked

Judge Paweł Juszczyszyn was allowed to return to work at the Regional Court in Olsztyn on Monday, however this decision was overruled almost immediately by the court's president Maciej Nawacki. The latter's term as president ended on Friday, but the Ministry of Justice sent a fax to the court on Monday, annoucing that Nawacki has been appointed for another term. Nawacki has cancelled his leave of absence only to announce his first decision about revoking the decision allowing Juszczyszyn to return, issued by his deputy Krzysztof

Krygielski, who was the court's acting president for this short period before Nawacki reappointment.

### Łukasz Mejza took part in voting session despite "suspending his activities"

Deputy Minister of Sports Łukasz Mejza announced on December 10 that he had asked for a leave of absence as member of parliament. A positive decision was granted by Deputy Speaker of the Sejm Małgorzata Gosiewska, but Mejza's vacation officialy started on Monday (December 20). Despite his urgent need for vacation, the deputy minister was present at Friday's voting session in the lower house, and took part in voting over the 2022 budget and the so-called lex TVN.

# Contested media reform bill on president's desk. Andrzej Duda has 21 days to make a decision

The media reform bill landed on President Andrzej Duda's desk on Monday morning, chief of president's office Paweł Szrot said. He added that the president has 21 days to either sign it into law or veto the proposed legislation.

### EU Commission concerned about Poland's media law passed by parliament

The European Union said on Monday a Polish law that critics say aims to silence a news channel critical of the government poses severe risks to media freedom and pluralism.

### Longest road tunnel in Poland opens in south Warsaw

"Right here, today we are opening the most advanced and at the same time the longest tunnel in Poland, it's over 2 kilometres long," Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said on Monday during Warsaw's southern ring road opening ceremony. Shortly after 12, first cars entered the tunnel heading towards Wawer district.

### "Free People, Free Media": Poles protest against media law

Poles on Sunday staged nationwide protests including a thousands-strong rally outside the presidential palace to demand the head of state veto a law they say would limit media freedoms in the European Union's largest eastern member.

# TVN Discovery Group on passed media reform bill: an unprecedented attack on free media

TVN Discovery Group has issued a statement regarding a controversial media reform bill, known as lex TVN, passed by the Seim on Friday.

#### Bix Aliu: United States extremely disappointed by Poland's media law passing

"The United States is extremely disappointed by today's passage of the media bill by the Sejm" - U.S. charge d'affaires said in a tweet on Friday. He also stressed that Washington hopes Polish President Andrzej Duda will "act in accordance with previous statements".

### Sejm passes controversial media law targeting TVN24

Poland's lower house of parliament, the Sejm, passed a controversial media reform bill on Friday, known as lex TVN, which - if ratified by the president - would mainly target TVN24 news channel owned by U.S. Discovery company. The law had been rejected by the Senate, but the parliamentary committee on culture and mass media unexpectedly resumed works on the bill on Friday. Opposition MPs say they were informed the this key law would processed again less than 20 minutes before the session.

### **Energy Regulatory Office approves higher tariffs for energy and gas**

Customers of Polish energy companies Enea, PGE, Tauron and Energa will have to pay around 24% more for energy in 2022, based on tariffs approved by Poland's Energy Regulatory Office on Friday.

#### Second case of Omicron detected in a child in Warsaw

Poland recorded the second case of Omicron variant. The health ministry said on Friday that the new coronavirus variant has been detected in a three-year-old girl from Warsaw.

### 40th anniversary of massacre of miners at Wujek Coal Mine

40 years ago - on December 16, 1981 - Polish communist militia and army brutally quashed a protest against the martial law imposed three days prior. After being initially fought off by protesting miners from the Wujek Coal Mine in Katowice, the armed forces received a shoot-to-kill order. Nine miners were killed and dozens injured during this tragic event. Official commemorations were organised at the mine and other places in Poland.

## Morawiecki: EU-NATO to further cooperation and sanctions on Belarus and Russia

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said on Thursday that the EU and NATO will further their cooperation on the basis of a new declaration.

### **Poland reports its first case of Omicron variant**

Poland has detected its first case of the Omicron COVID-19 variant, a deputy health minister was cited as saying on Thursday by state-run news agency PAP.

### First child of Linda and Arnold. Baby mouse-deer is born at Warsaw Zoo

A baby Java mouse-deer has been born at Warsaw Zoo, leaving staff delighted to hear the patter of extremely tiny hooves.

#### Four migrants rescued from a swamp in freezing Poland

Four migrants from Syria and Iraq were rescued from a swamp in Poland near the border with Belarus late on Tuesday in a life-or-death operation as bitter winter conditions set in, security services said.