PRACTICE ARTICLE

Poland Invades Czech Republic by Accident

By Kirsten Rohrs Schmitt

In late May, Polish soldiers entered the Czech Republic and stopped Czech citizens from going to a local church.

Poland had closed its borders in an effort to keep out the coronavirus. A new group of Polish soldiers had been assigned to help out border guards, and they mistakenly stationed themselves on the Czech side of the Polish-Czech border, near the Czech town of Pelhřimovy.

"Our Polish counterparts unofficially assured us that this incident was merely a misunderstanding caused by the Polish military with no hostile intention," said Zuzana Štíchová, the Czech Foreign Ministry spokesperson. "However, we are still expecting a formal statement."

As soon as the incident occurred, Czech diplomats contacted the Polish government, which removed their soldiers.

"It was corrected immediately, and the case was resolved – also by the Czech side," a Poland Ministry of Defense spokesperson told CNN.

"In the spirit of good Polish-Czech relations, we believe that this was only a minor misunderstanding that was quickly cleared up," said a representative from Poland's Foreign Ministry in a statement.