Institute of National Remembrance

https://eng.ipn.gov.pl/en/news/13761,An-IPN-exhibition-dedicated-to-Jozef-Mackiewicz-and-his-legacy-was-presented-in-.html
28.11.2026, 14:39
27.11.2026

An IPN exhibition dedicated to Józef Mackiewicz and his legacy was presented in Spain





An exhibition dedicated to Józef Mackiewicz, the distinguished Polish writer and anti-communist activist, was presented at the Real Casino de Murcia (Royal Casino of Murcia) in Spain on 26 November 2026 as part of the *Writers Against Totalitarianism* series, held under the patronage of the President of the Institute of National Remembrance.

The exhibition was organised in cooperation with Higinio J. Paterna Sánchez, a translator from Polish into Spanish, whose latest translation of *Kontra*, one of Józef Mackiewicz's most significant novels, was recently published in Spain.

The opening ceremony was attended by Jorge Zieleniewski, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Murcia, representatives of the Polish community, and invited guests from Spain.

A letter addressed to the participants by Dr Karol Polejowski, Deputy President of the IPN, was read out during the event. In his message, he

emphasised Mackiewicz's particularly close ties with Spain and the importance of his literary legacy for Europe's engagement with its history and the experience of totalitarianism:

> "Józef Mackiewicz held Spain in profound admiration for its resolute opposition to communism, regarding it as one of the few European strongholds openly resisting Soviet expansion. For Mackiewicz, who described himself as an 'anti-communist by birth and nationality', opposition to the Bolshevik system was an absolute priority, Deputy President polejowski wrote.

The letter went on to highlight the European significance of Mackiewicz's work, with particular reference to his novel *Kontra*, which recounts the tragic fate of Cossacks who resisted Soviet communism during the Second World War.

> “His portrayal of people left to face their fate alone raises questions of moral responsibility and historical justice that remain just as relevant today.In this respect, *Kontra* retains profound significance for Europe, reminding us that history must also give a voice to those who have been defeated, persecuted or forgotten,”

The presentation of the exhibition in Murcia marks another milestone in the Institute of National Remembrance’s efforts to promote knowledge of Polish history and its outstanding figures abroad. By introducing Spanish audiences to Józef Mackiewicz’s literary legacy, the IPN fosters cultural dialogue between Poland and Spain and invites a shared reflection on Europe’s experience of totalitarianism, the value of freedom, and the responsibility to uphold historical truth.

The event was co-organised by the IPN’s International Cooperation Office.

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