

Dear Tom,

Thank you for having responded so promptly. We would like to express our deep concern that by now there hadn't been any talk of the matter, which has forced us to writing an open letter.

We would like to clarify some issues:

1. We have, indeed, posed our information concerning the violation of both standards and good practice directly to IANTD CE.
2. We have discussed these matters during the instructors' and IANTD CE representatives' meeting on March 4th. We have clearly expressed our doubts during the meeting. This took place ten days before you addressed your decision that we have received on 13.03.2017

No one of us would have assumed that our issues as well as our doubts wouldn't have been delivered directly to IANTD HQ. Since this occurred, we would assume our questions have been neglected.

There is also another issue, concerning your puzzlement of the moral standards. It seems as if you didn't realize what you had sent to us. Therefore we hereby attach a letter which comprises the IANTD HQ guidelines – which means – from you. It clearly must have been a misunderstanding.

As for an essence, which is the violation of standards and good practice during the basic cave dive course in Fontanazzi on January 5th – we firmly consider the report drawn up by one of the participants of the event to be the most reliable evidence. Firstly, it was made right after the accident had taken place. Secondly, it inculpates the instructors involved, including its author – why would a reasonable person falsely blame themselves in public? There is only one explanation of such: the author did it to tell the whole truth or/and he didn't realize that the standards and good training practice had been violated. We believe that Wojciech Nowak posted the report on Facebook to share his knowledge of the accident when it was still vibrant and thorough. The reason why the report was compiled was to alert all the members of our community and not to stoke up a sensation or to compromise anything/anyone. Every time such terrible event takes place, the society should be alarmed and involved so we can inspect all the aspects of safety and compliance of our actions. It is for common good.

The report is still available online, therefore everyone who's interested is already acknowledged with the subject. Not only it would be useless to conceal it so belatedly, but it would also compromise the transparency of our society. We hereby send the report attached.

Tom, you are well known for your cave diving experience. Every instructor, who's ever performed cave diving course is well aware that the cave is particularly hard and demanding to dive and even more to run a basic cave course in it. This is the conclusion everyone gets by diving there for at least one time.

The report states that the diver was supposed to swim solo from the entrance of the cave to 20 m deep, where the rest of the group was supposed to wait for him. It is

obvious to everyone who's ever dived in the cave that to pass this distance, he had to dive from the entrance to the hall, find the beginning of the fixed rope, pass through a couple restrictions on his way and then enter the curvy corridor. Alas, he did not notice the beginning of the fixed rope and, by mistake, entered the narrow crevice he stuck in and died.

The diver was found stuck in the crevice. He passed away after having undertaken a great effort to get through the restriction. The diver who found him was unable to release the body from the crevice on his own.

If there had been an instructor observing and leading all the participants the situation would have never taken place. Evidently, navigation mistake had occurred, that was not corrected by the instructor – what is more, the mistake was provoked by the instructor. Had he witnessed all the actions of the participants of his course, this would never have happened.

Have you wondered why the diver tried so hard to get through the restriction? He must have assumed that this had been the right way through. He did not see any of the previous divers, there was no one there to follow or to show him the way. We believe the instructor should have foreseen this – he didn't. His mistake is undisputable and remains the most grave due to fatality of its' consequences: the young man lost his life.

In case the description of the accident made by Wojciech Nowak, who participated in the course, doesn't bring enough evidence that the violation of standards and good practice had taken place, you should at least consider it disturbing enough to restrain from re-enacting Kruczkowski's eligibility until the investigation of both Polish and Italian prosecutor's office is completed.

There are also other standard violation issues such as insufficient dives amount before the training. This can be easily investigated. Should you do, the misuses will become evident.

The open letter we have addressed to IANTD HQ was signed by the number of experienced divers and instructors. At least half of them has dived in Fontanazzi. We have all revealed our names and certificate numbers. We trust you have assigned the most experienced professionals to investigate the case, but they still remain anonymous to us, which may raise further questions of their specific experience and knowledge of this cave.

We do realize that these matters have already gone too far, but it's still not too late to put things back on the right course. We must not forsake the issue, because it would compromise our reputation amongst our current and prospective clients as well as amongst those who have signed the letter (200 IANDT divers). This would also disgrace us in view of the other federations in Poland. It is the job we all benefit from, therefore it would also jeopardize our gains. No one would put their trust in organization which remains blind to such inadequacies.

We hereby insist on re - suspending Andrzej Kruczkowski's eligibility and run the investigation again. We sincerely offer all of our help and knowledge in the matter.

We also let you know that, should IANTD sustain the current decision towards Andrzej

Kruczkowski's eligibility, we will not cease to cooperate with other ITs and instructors to fully explain and enlighten all the circumstances of the accident, because, in our opinion, the actions during the course had been performed in contrary to standards and good dive practice. Although the formal investigation is still being run, we assume it would be much inappropriate should the prosecutor's office conclusions vary from those the IANTD QA has come to.

The fact is, hasty decisions may result in fatal consequences. Please take under deep consideration what were the consequences of your decision of having reestablished a instructors eligibility immediately after the accident on Mexican Grand Cenote had taken place. The difference that may be noticed between this and that case is that the event Andrzej Kruczkowski was involved occurred during the IANTD course. IANDT HQ approval to such precipitate approach may severely compromise the organization's compliance.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Kindest regards,
Instructors and cave divers IANTD CE