

A second Open Letter to Tom Mount dated 22 April 2017.

We are collecting the signatures below the second Open Letter to Tom Mount.

Any IANTD diver can submit their signature in the format:

First name and surname; #[IANTD](#) number.

You can also submit your signature via e-mail: [fontanazzi@fontanazziaccid](mailto:fontanazzi@fontanazziaccid)

Moderator of the site will update the list of people on ongoing basis.

A second open letter to: Tom Mount, IANTD HQ and the QA Board investigating a fatal accident which took place on January 5th in the Italian cave Fontanazzi.

Due to the serious traces of negligence of safety rules, good diving practice and IANTD standards while conducting the Cave course during which the trainee Krzysztof Betiuk was tragically exposed to unnecessary risk and eventually died, we request IANTD HQ to suspend the Andrzej Kruczkowski's instructor's permissions again and to disclose full justification of the IANTD's decision.

## 1. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ACCIDENT

Participants of the cave course:

**Andrzej Kruczkowski** - cave instructor ITT IANTD (organizer and course leader)

**Wojciech Nowak** – student on the grade IANTD cave instructor

**Krzysztof Betiuk** – student on the grade cave diver (he died during this course)

**Marcel Korkuś** - student on the grade cave diver

On 05th January a fatal accident occurred during a technical cave course in the Italian cave Fontanazzi. One of the three trainees died after got stuck in a blind, side narrow corridor. The course was led by ITT IANTD Andrzej Kruczkowski. During the same course a cave instructor course was conducted.

Two days after the accident the candidate for the cave instructor level and participant of this course Wojciech Nowak published the report describing the plan and a sequence of this tragic event (attached below).

The report stated:

The trainees were meant to dive alone within 1 minute intervals, starting from the surface through 30 meters narrow vertical funnel with some restriction along the way. They were supposed to meet the leading instructor at 20-meter depth. There was no fixed gold line connecting the surface with the cave. Krzysztof, who were supposed to dive as the third one, entered the wrong way and few meters further got stuck with head down position in the blind, leading to nowhere route.

This was Krzysztof's fifth dive during this technical cave course and his fifth cave diving ever. He got stuck so tight that the fourth diver (Wojciech Nowak, the author of the report) who fund him after few minutes was not able to pull him out.

After a quarter or so when the leading instructor returned from the deeper part of the cave (he was in another part of the cave with another trainee during the accident) he was not able to help either and Krzysztof was already dead.

Krzysztof's body was pulled by the emergency services that needed to take out the body using ropes and pull the cadaver with a few rescuers working on the surface.

## 2. EXPLANATORY PROCEEDINGS

Andrzej Kruczkowski officially reported to IANTD HQ similar description of this dive. Apart from that the Board appointed by Tom Mount has received the reports of all others participants confirming Wojciech Nowak's statement that Andrzej Kruczkowski did not supervise tragically dead Krzysztof Betiuk. Nevertheless, IANTD QA Board found that instructor Andrzej Kruczkowski did not violated IANTD standards either good diving practice.

QA Board based on the testimony of all witnesses of the accident and where all participants of this tragic dive admitted to leave Krzysztof Betiuk alone in a cave without supervision, which ended with Krzysztof's death recognized that the instructor IANTD ITT Andrzej Kruczkowski who was the leading instructor and organizer of this course did not violated standards.

A fragment of the IANTD QA Board statement:

"For it is obvious that there had been no standards violation, which was clearly ascertained by QA Board, consisted on the most experienced and ethical ITT cave instructors, we strongly recommend all of the Andrzej Kruczkowski's qualifications be retained. Andrzej Kruczkowski is to maintain active teaching status on all of the accomplished levels, due to both QA Board and IANTD HQ decision."

## 3. DOUBTS OF THE SYGNATORIES OF THE PROTEST

Polish IANTD Instructors have protested this IANTD QA Board's decision.

In assessing the violation of standards, the signatories were based on an internal IANTD order.

Standards valid on the day of the accident: THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NITROX AND TECHNICAL DIVERS® (IAND, INC. dba IANTD®) STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR RECREATIONAL DIVING INCLUSIVE OF SPORT AND TECHNICAL DIVING Revised: 7/7/2010 – updated March 2015.

Thorough analysis of the standards and honest evaluation of good diving practise leaves no doubt that during the course the standards were not complied in following aspects:

1. The instructor Andrzej Kruczkowski has planned the dive where trainees were expected to dive alone through a difficult bit of a cave only with a line partially laid without supervision. And so, this dive was conducted.
2. Trainee Krzysztof Betiuk was in side mount configuration to which he was not certified, not to even mention multistage SM. Krzysztof Betiuk had at least three side cylinders (one with air, one with nitrox and one with oxygen) during the dive.
3. The ITT Andrzej Kruczkowski had instructor technical cave IT qualifications despite a reasonable suspicion that he did not meet the requirements to obtain such a degree. Andrzej Kruczkowski has completed the IANTD instructor training in August 2011 and in 2014 he became cave IT despite a reasonable suspicion that he did not meet the requirements. As early as 2015 Andrzej Kruczkowski was nominated for ITT by Tom Mount.
4. There is a reasonable suspicion that student Wojciech Nowak did not meet the requirements to join the cave instructor course which he participated when the accident had place.

5. "Intro the cave" part was performed in the cave too difficult to do so due to several restrictions on the entry part, that make it impossible to attend more than one person at the time.

All the issues mentioned above had a direct impact on the Krzysztof Betiuk's fatal accident to occur.

#### 4. DIVERS SOCIETY VS. IANTD HQ

From the e-mail correspondence between IANTD HQ and signatories it follows that:

- IANTD HQ rejected the request, issued by six IT to re-examine the circumstances of the accident. In the application, the signatories pointed out all the issues suggesting that the standards of cave training conducted by Andrzej Kruczkowski were violated. Because of this violations Krzysztof Betiuk, a twenty nine year old participant of this course, died.
- IANTD QA Board, assigned by Tom Mount, to assess the circumstances of the accident, has consisted of the people identified by Tom Mount as the most competent and experienced. Because members of the board remain anonymous, their actual experience cannot be assessed, nor do they remain free from pressure from IANTD HQ to cover up the case.
- In the absence of a response from the IANTD authorities on a written protest, an open letter was issued and signed by 2 ITT, 5 IT, 34 instructors and 153 divers.

In the response to the open letter, members of the organization, including the signatories of the protest, were informed of an immediate tightening of ethical standard on public speaking in the media on the events of January 5, 2017.

Thus, IANTD members were obliged to keep silent under the threat of consequences from the IANTD authorities.

It was seven IT instructors among the signatories of the open letter:

Sebastian Popek, Łukasz Piórewicz, Marek Cacaj, Krzysztof Starnawski, Tomasz Żabierek, Roman Virt and Sylwester Peknik.

**Sebastian Popek, Łukasz Piórewicz and Marek Cacaj** were informed, that their IT qualifications would be maintained only if they adhere to the new IANTD ethical standards, which bans negative public speaking in the social media concerning any instructor, instructors' actions and the IANTD organization itself.

**Tomasz Żabierek** was immediately deprived of his IT qualifications.

**Roman Virt**, the ITT Instructor, who first informed Tom Mount about irregularities during conducting the course where Krzysztof Betiuk died, yesterday on 18th Apr received a letter informing about immediate removal from the IANTD.

**Krzysztof Starnawski**, who owns an e-mail account from which signatories have sent protest, was reported by Tom Mount to the Disciplinary Board of IANTD to verify his ethical behavior. The breach of ethical standards would have supposed to concern the correspondence between Krzysztof Starnawski and Tom Mount where Krzysztof Starnawski called on Tom Mount to re-examine the case and to suspend the qualifications of Andrzej Kruczkowski until the circumstances of the accident and the investigation of the prosecution were completed.

**Jacek Lubowiecki** has been the only IT, who has revoked the protest. As a reward, he has been given a lead of Polish IANTD office starting from the 01<sup>st</sup> June 2017.

The current situation forces us to question not only the IANTD QA Board's reliability, but also the doubts about the moral attitudes of Tom Mount and other members of the IANTD Board. Leaving this at the current stage will be a green light for all IANTD instructors allowing for impunity for safety violations which will inevitably result in further fatal accidents.

Therefore, if you share our opinion, then please sign up under this statement (it is enough to enter your name and certificate number and the position: IANTD instructor or IANTD diver).

If we do not stop this pathology in our organization tomorrow it might impact each one of you as well.

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2. David Uhlik IT IANTD#631
3. Patrick Widmann IT IANTD#659
4. Adam Leslie INSTRUKTOR IANTD#8203
5. Radosław Zajkowski INSTRUKTOR IANTD#7343
6. Hubert Grzybek INSTRUKTOR IANTD#9025
7. Robert Prince Pawłowski INSTRUKTOR IANTD#8414
8. Tomasz Trojanowicz INSTRUKTOR IANTD#7724
9. Tymek Podgórczyk INSTRUKTOR IANTD#7779
10. Leszek Gimel IANTD INSTRUKTOR IANTD#9534
11. Rafał Łakomski INSTRUKTOR IANTD#8670
12. Wojtek Komocki INSTRUKTOR IANTD#9092
13. Massimiliano Canossa INSTRUKTOR IANTD#2549 Italy
14. Jarek Kur INSTRUKTOR IANTD#5068
15. Mariusz Wróbel INSTRUKTOR IANTD#8323
16. Magdalena Saugut INSTRUKTOR IANTD#9435
17. Monika Lelonkiewicz INSTRUKTOR IANTD#7728
18. Grzegorz Reder INSTRUKTOR IANTD#7342
19. Hubert Urbańczyk INSTRUKTOR IANTD#113204
20. Grzegorz Garwoliński INSTRUKTOR IANTD#6934
21. Radek Neuvirt INSTRUKTOR IANTD#7402
22. Kateřina Zajíčková INSTRUKTOR IANTD#8322
23. Jan Zajicek INSTRUKTOR IANTD#9124
24. Zdeněk Mundl INSTRUKTOR IANTD#8585
25. Peter Macinski INSTRUKTOR IANTD#933426. Peter Hornburger INSTRUKTOR IANTD#8100
27. Susanne Simader INSTRUKTOR IANTD#8732
28. Alvaro Roldan INSTRUKTOR IANTD#8159
29. Krzysztof Poźniak INSTRUKTOR IANTD#7581
30. Thiago Somera INSTRUKTOR IANTD#9450
31. Witold Hoffmann INSTRUKTOR IANTD#9079
32. Krzysztof Smoliński OC/CCR NTMX INSTRUKTOR IANTD #9090
33. Tomasz Wciórka IANTD#171925
34. Marek Łapiński IANTD#174809
35. Robert Much IANTD#161698 IANTD#142061
36. Gerard Maj IANTD#131398
37. Piotr Zadrowski IANTD#169011
38. Tomasz Zapiór IANTD#171917
39. Paweł Zapiór IANTD#171918
40. Izabela Rynkiewicz IANTD#169112
41. Grzegorz Świątnicki IANTD#186027
42. Ewa Kruk IANTD#165798

43.Michał Marek IANTD#165121  
44.Monika Kurzep IANTD#165608  
45.Grażyna Mikulewicz IANTD#164529  
46.Katerina Peknik IANTD#108020  
47.Marcin Jastrzębski IANTD#140110  
48.Oliver J. Albrecht IANTD#146824  
49.Ryszard Wolschendorf IANTD#4047  
50.Sławek Paćko IANTD#111865  
51.Anna Rapp IANTD#62803  
52.Stanisław Janicki IANTD#179622  
53.Sebastian Bodnar IANTD#162800  
54.Robert Gruca IANTD#113186  
55.Aleksandra Gruca IANTD#113187  
56.Rafał Rutkowski IANTD#83755  
57.Piotr Krych IANTD#169570  
58.Paweł Boruta IANTD#167237  
59.Katarzyna Leszczyńska IANTD#170146  
60.Mateusz Filipp IANTD#97056  
61.Sebastian Prędko IANTD#118090  
62.Paweł Seweryniuk IANTD#185064  
63.Paniczko Sławomir IANTD#110072  
64.Anna Bocheńska IANTD#160942  
65.Michał Gignal IANTD#60052  
66.Agata Isajew, IANTD#176130  
67.Tomasz Siwy IANTD#115540  
68.David Zaras IANTD#162137  
69.Tomasz Jeżewski IANTD#16370070.Łukasz Potyra IANTD#77363  
71.Jarek Matyga IANTD#171593  
72.Agata Wiesiołek IANTD#173621  
73.Radosław Bieliński IANTD#110070  
74.Robert Goszczyński IANTD #121299  
75.Adam Borkowski IANTD#122196  
76.Maciej Jarząbek IANTD#175712  
77.Sebastian Wąsowicz IANTD#160888  
78.Krzysztof Rejer CCR IANTD#173536  
79.Bartosz Ciomcia IANTD#144591  
80.Michał Stańko IANTD#175607  
81.Ania Ciura IANTD#170195  
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83.Michał Winek IANTD#82975  
84.Katarzyna Kapłan IANTD#82571  
85.Łukasz Lechowicz IANTD#67572  
86.Michał Gwiżdż IANTD#119299  
87.Andrzej Piekarski IANTD#179215  
88.Tomasz Machalski IANTD#82529  
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93.Jowita Kozana IANTD#118014  
94.Stanisław Krzeptowski – Sabala IANTD#138648  
95.Grzegorz Chimiak IANTD#170200

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99.Tomasz Michura IANTD#130454  
100.Adam Seweryn IANTD#101720  
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102.Łukasz Bulsiewicz IANTD#178648  
103.Bartek Witul IANTD#170082  
104.Jacek Mazur IANTD#176316  
105.Andrzej Holka IANTD#119594  
106.Tomasz Czubkowski IANTD#169568  
107.Izabela Kącka IANTD#185046  
108.Dariusz Bułka IANTD#116700  
109.Maciek Ogrodnik IANTD#170199  
110.Małgorzata Barańska IANTD#136364  
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118.Adam Jaworski IANTD#160900  
119.Jarek Macedoński IANTD#170198  
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131.Marcin Tracz IANTD#178725  
132.Tomek Rzepecki IANTD#108861  
133.Marcin Królik IANTD#176212  
134.Chrystian Przybylski IANTD#99122  
135.Jacek Marek IANTD#170086  
136.Artur Mielcarek IANTD #144637  
137.Konrad Małek IANTD#176127  
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141.Piotr Łoś IANDT#161718  
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143.Konrad Stachowicz IANTD#171933  
144.Jerzy Woźniakowski IANTD#139918  
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146.Marcin Jamkowski IANTD#???  
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150.Jakub Pawlak IANTD#169515  
151.Piotr Ginter IANTD#165455  
152.Bartek Wiendlocha IANTD#120790  
153.Jarosław Czapla IANTD#162885  
154.Grzegorz Stępień IANTD#67706  
155.Krzysztof Biały IANTD#66693  
156.Adam Kulczycki IANTD#64345  
157.Adam Słucki IANTD#7811158.Aleksandra Stępień IANTD#87759  
159.Damian Idzikowski IANTD#122279  
160.Adrian Sapota IANTD#179563  
161.Zbigniew Witul IANTD#170083  
162.Andrzej Zwetler IANTD#81715  
163.Paweł Smolarkiewicz IANTD#96771  
164.Ondřej Kopecký IANTD#68483  
165.Andrzej Golka IANTD#104857  
166.Dariusz Szymański IANTD#165693  
167.Kris Sienkowski IANTD#183491  
168.Natalie Gibb IANTD#77759  
169.Richard Toth IANTD#170843  
170.Marco Steiner IANTD#168100  
171.Daniel Kafka IANTD#59994  
172.Atanas Rusev IANTD#166600  
173.Zach Klukkert IANTD#184338  
174.Šárka Novotná IANTD#130438  
175.Valer Klukan IANTD#122925  
176.Marina Kopáčková IANTD#131460  
177.Arkadiusz Atr Oszczygiel IANTD#160242  
178.Wojciech Mańko IANTD#167231  
179.Wojciech Sulewski IANTD#165694  
180.Pedro Balordi IANTD#48593  
181.Jiri Soukup IANTD#170187  
182.Christine Loew IANTD#70588  
183.Maciej Rulka IANTD#67619  
184.Marcin Kaczmarek IANTD#267853  
185.Michal Palkovic IANTD#41387  
186.Victoria Magdalena Budzyńska IANTD#63031  
187.Mirosław Włas IANTD#118779  
188.Piotr Synowiec IANTD#98750  
189.Peter Andersson IANTD#141750  
190.Nikolas Gerdau IANTD#80370  
191.Elliot Smith IANTD#179686  
192.Victoria Alexandrova IANTD#7490  
193.Szymon Klause IANTD#135021  
194.Séverine Bär IANTD#160331  
195.Piotr Karaś IANTD#175655  
196.Grzegorz Sierak IANTD#117308  
197.Tomasz Kurzawski IANTD#68492  
198.Jakub Praus IANTD#111273  
199.Chun Zhou IANTD#185105  
200.Sylwia Karaś IANTD#175654  
201.Xavier Penaherrera IANTD#176375202.Phillip Lehman IANTD#105971

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205.Ute Welcker IANTD#171558  
206.Adam Iwanowski IANTD#99119  
207.Katarzyna Turzańska IANTD#120779  
208.Remigiusz Miedziński IANTD#167187  
209.Federico Facinelli IANTD#163632  
210.Ralph Huber IANTD#166507  
211.Mateusz Kulczykowski IANTD#117621  
212.Martin Vrabec IANTD#123494  
213.Christian Weikl IANTD#187758  
214.Andreas Kraus IANTD#187760  
215.Jakub Pastucha IANTD#178629  
216.Rajmund Kondys IANTD#99121  
217.Łukasz Szymula CCR Trimix Diver IANTD#168417  
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220.Piotr Biel IANTD#133765  
221.Marcin ?????? IANTD#109307  
222.Marek Popielarz IANTD#117298  
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224.Piotr Cybula IANTD#185040  
225.Michal Samplawski IANTD#186029  
226.Piotr Gzara IANTD#184957  
227.Grzegorz Mizerka IANTD#139865  
228.Michael Höttl INTD#165514  
229.Stefan Ruehl IANTD#169437  
230.Markku Diedrich IANTD#128893  
231.David Thor IANTD#143632  
232.Piotr Michałek IANTD#184993  
233.Lars Neumeier IANTD#141722  
234.Sebastian Mroczkowski IANTD#7338  
235.Monika Golisz IANTD#171932  
236.Konrad Stachowicz IANTD#171933