

INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT

Polish National Initiative for Advanced Nursing Practice (PNI-ANP)

In Defense of Civil and Human Rights of Nurses Worldwide

January 2026

The **Polish National Initiative for Advanced Nursing Practice (PNI-ANP)** expresses its profound outrage and deep solidarity following the killing of **Alex Pretti, RN (1988–2026)**, a 37-year-old intensive care nurse who was fatally shot by federal law enforcement officers in Minneapolis, United States.

Alex Pretti was a registered nurse, a healthcare professional, and a civilian. Available video evidence shows that he was **holding a mobile phone**, documenting events and assisting others in a public space. He posed **no imminent threat**. Nevertheless, he was subjected to force, restrained, and killed.

This was not only the death of an individual nurse.
It was a **grave violation of civil rights** and a **dangerous signal to nurses worldwide**.

THIS IS A GLOBAL NURSING ISSUE

Nurses do not cease to be nurses when they leave the hospital.
They remain bound by ethical duties to:

- protect life,
- bear witness to harm,
- act in the public interest.

When a nurse is killed for witnessing, documenting, or assisting in public space, **the profession itself is placed under threat**.

This case establishes a chilling precedent:
that **nurses may be subjected to lethal force and posthumous criminalization for acting in accordance with professional ethics and civic responsibility**.

Such a precedent is incompatible with:

- democratic principles,
 - international human rights standards,
 - and the ethical foundations of nursing.
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FROM WORKPLACE VIOLENCE TO CIVIL RIGHTS

Violence against nurses is already a global crisis.

However, the killing of Alex Pretti marks a **dangerous escalation** — from workplace violence to **state violence against a nurse acting as a citizen**.

This shifts the issue from occupational safety alone to:

- **civil liberties,**
- **freedom to bear witness,**
- **the right of health professionals to act without fear of lethal retaliation.**

If this line is crossed without consequence, **no nurse, anywhere in the world, can consider themselves protected.**

OUR CALL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

PNI-ANP calls upon international nursing organizations, human rights institutions, and global health bodies to:

1. **Publicly condemn the killing of Alex Pretti, RN**
2. **Demand a fully independent, transparent investigation** consistent with international human rights standards
3. **Affirm that nurses retain their professional and civic rights outside clinical settings**
4. **Recognize witnessing, documenting, and assisting as legitimate and protected acts**
5. **Stand in active solidarity with nurses facing state violence, intimidation, or criminalization**

Silence in this moment is not neutrality.

Silence is a political act with professional consequences.

WHY WE SPEAK

Nurses are not combatants.
Nurses are not enemies of the state.
Nurses are **guardians of life, dignity, and truth.**

When a nurse is killed for acting on these values, **the global nursing community must respond with one voice.**

Justice for Alex Pretti is not only about accountability for one death.
It is about **defending the civil and human rights of nurses everywhere.**

Issued by:
Polish National Initiative for Advanced Nursing Practice (PNI-ANP)
Poland

On behalf of nurses who refuse to accept silence, fear, or the normalization of violence.

Sincerely,

Dariusz Popinski

Representative of the EBEN-HEZER Foundation Head
of the National Initiative for Advanced Nursing Practice (OIZPP)

 Attachment

Visual Statement Graphic:
A Nurse Was Killed for Witnessing
Alex Pretti, RN (1988–2026)
Justice for Nurses • Human Rights Are Not a Crime