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**NDI MOURNS LOSS OF POLAND'S PRESIDENT, DEMOCRATIC LEADERS
IN TRAGIC AIRPLANE CRASH**

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) expressed its deep condolences today to the people of Poland over the loss of their president, Lech Kaczynski, and many members of their government in an airplane crash.

“April 10, 2010, will be remembered by the Polish people and by Poland's friends as a day when the country lost remarkable democratic leaders,” said NDI Chairman Madeleine K. Albright. “President Lech Kaczynski, First Lady Maria Kaczynski and the others who were lost in this tragedy will be mourned in Poland and throughout the world. Poland will remember them with the solemnity, resilience and strength built over centuries.”

NDI President Kenneth Wollack noted that many of those who died struggled courageously for Poland's democracy and had since worked with the Institute to share their experiences with democrats in other countries.

“Their loss is felt not only by Poland and the families that have been affected by the tragedy, but also by the greater democracy community, including NDI, which has been inspired by the Polish experience,” he said.

The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide by promoting citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. More information is available at www.ndi.org.