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**From:** Tomasz Orynski  
**To:** Kate Bolger  
**Sent:** 12/19/2016 10:50:46 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Your article on drunken santa in Poland

...and here is her answer.

@" www.orynski.eu "@\_

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sara Nelson** <sara.nelson@huffingtonpost.com>  
Date: 6 January 2014 at 10:08  
Subject: Re: Your article on drunken santa in Poland  
To: Tomasz Oryński <t.orynski@gazetae.com>

Dear Tomasz

Thank you for your email of 4 January regarding the article located at the following url: [http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/12/23/drunk-santa-helper-flung-sleigh-drink-driving-charges-pictures\\_n\\_4492414.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/12/23/drunk-santa-helper-flung-sleigh-drink-driving-charges-pictures_n_4492414.html)

The article which you say is untrue was supplied to us by Central European News Limited (“**CEN**”). We have contacted CEN and whilst we wait for their response we have removed the article on 6 January.

We have taken this action as a gesture of good will and it should not be treated as an admission of AOL (UK) Limited’s alleged liability. Accordingly, AOL reserves all rights in relation to this matter. We trust that our prompt action in removing this content upon receipt of your complaint will be the end of this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Sara Nelson

Traffic & Trends Editor

On Sat, Jan 4, 2014 at 3:51 PM, Tomasz Oryński <t.orynski@gazetae.com> wrote:  
Dear Sara,

I am a Polish journalist from the online magazine [www.gazetae.com](http://www.gazetae.com) aimed mostly at Polish community in UK. We recently started an action, answering to a popular demand of our readers, when we are going to take a closer look into articles in British press that blacken Poland and Polish people. You are welcome to joining a Facebook group related to our campaign: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DailyMailwatch/>, you might also find this reading interesting: <http://gazetae.com/artykuly/stop-british-media-blackening-eastern-europe>

Recent article that circulate around the Internet made many people outraged and made a life of certain gentleman very hard, as because some made up quotes were published under his name, some of his neighbours believe that he blackened their little town for money. I am talking about the Drunk Santa article published by Daily Mail under the name of Ellie Buchdahl and in the [Huffingtonpost.co.uk](http://Huffingtonpost.co.uk) under your name. Apart from the tricky question of who is really the author of that piece, there is a bigger problem: it poses to be a real article, but in fact, as proven by Polish media it is complete load of made up junk. (source here: [http://rzeszow.gazeta.pl/rzeszow/1,34962,15203886,\\_Daily\\_Mail\\_Pijany\\_mikolaj\\_w\\_Ustrzykach\\_Bzdura.html#BoxSlotII3img](http://rzeszow.gazeta.pl/rzeszow/1,34962,15203886,_Daily_Mail_Pijany_mikolaj_w_Ustrzykach_Bzdura.html#BoxSlotII3img), I know it is in Polish, but since you write about Poland, you probably have at least basic knowledge of the language, am I right?)

I will attach summary of the article flaws at the end of that email.

Anyway, I am writing to you not as the enemy (as I leave the legal questions to mr. Mołodyński's lawyers) but as a journalist colleague and would like to ask if you could help me. We are trying to reach to the roots of such publications and therefore I would like to ask if you could direct me to the original source of that information. Did you made the story yourself? Or did Ellie Buchdahl made it up? Are you related in any way? Or did you found it somewhere on the web? Or was it sent to you by someone?

All help would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Tomasz Oryński

Breakdown of the article as published in Daily Mail:

1. "Police investigating 51-year-old and his 31-year-old helper for drunk driving" - not true. Police breath tested persons involved, which is a standard procedure in case of the accident, and found both of them sober.
2. "Father Christmas and his helper are facing drink driving charges after they careered round a Polish town in a sleigh and smashed into a brick wall." - not true. They were injured when their horse shied and they were thrown outside the sledge when it hit the wall.
3. "busy high street of Ustrzykach Dolnych". - use of "Ustrzykach Dolnych" instead of nominative "Ustrzyki dolne" shows that the author of that piece has absolutely no knowledge of any Slavic language whatsoever, as the use of grammatical cases are essential in any of them (except, perhaps, Bulgarian).
4. "Zdzisław Mołodyński, who captured the scene on camera, said: "they saw these two, who were clearly under the influence, behaving like they had just come out of a nightclub or something." - it is made up. Zdzisław Mołodyński:
  - a) has never spoken to British press
  - b) never claimed they were drunk
5. Magda Dudzińska, who had taken her seven-year-old son to meet Father Christmas, said: 'I'm not happy they had a crash or are in hospital, but I'm delighted we didn't get to meet them. - it's made up. Polish journalist failed to find Magda Dudzińska nor anyone who ever heard about such person (and Ustrzyki Dolne is a very small town). She was probably imagined by the Daily Mail author.
6. Police spokesman Dorota Glazowska said: 'Technically, they were drunk while in charge of a vehicle on the road.' - while interviewed by the Polish media Dorota Glazowska declined that she ever spoke with British media, she also confirmed that the occupants of the sledge were NOT drunk.

VERDICT: IT'S COMPLETE PILE OF RUBBISH.

This case is especially hard for Zdzisław Mołodyński as not only his pictures were used by Daily Mail without his consent, but also he now has to face the anger of the people from Ustrzyki Dolne who, in many cases, believe that he defamed their little town in order to earn some money from selling the story to the British press. He announced that he is seeking to sue Daily Mail for damages.

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