

HORWITZ-KANCEWICZOWA Kamila (1879–1952), pseudonyms *Julia*, *Kamyk*, *Koncewicz*, *Leonia*, *Skalińska*, *Skąła*, political activist. She was born on 30th November 1879 in Warsaw.

After completing her medical studies in Zurich in 1904, she returned to the country. At the end of 1904, she became a member of the Polish Workers' Party (PPS). She was active in the PPS's Jewish organisation and took part in the demonstration at Grzybowski Square. She was a delegate to the 7th PPS Congress in March 1905 (she was elected by the then Jewish department), which saw a breakthrough in the evolution of the party, where she supported the position of the "young". In September 1905, she was arrested and then released in that same year, under the October amnesty.

Shortly after, she moved to Częstochowa and began working in the local PPS OKR. As its delegate, she took part in the 8th PPS Congress in February 1906. Soon, following the Congress, she participated in the PPS Regional Conference in Dąbie (now a suburb of Częstochowa). There, she reported on program matters.

Adam Uziembło writes about her activities in the Częstochow district PPS, "Julia (Horwitz) had extensive experience. Her advice was useful in many instances. She took in hand the entire organisational framework. She mastered the technical issues and the money. She undertook the organisation of the district offices, which meant that she stood at the centre from which she could observe all activities. She made all the contacts with Warsaw. She accepted orders and reported on the district's activities. In this manner, the power and distribution of it was all hers. She kept in contact with the village activities and, theoretically, within the military and railways, only partially sharing these relationships and matters with "Leonard [Mieczysław Michałowicz]".

From the spring of 1906, she was again active in Warsaw. Among other matters, she prepared the vociferous demonstration for the freeing of ten prisoners from Pawiak. She was arrested on 16th December 1906 and was sentenced to banishment from the Kingdom of Poland.

Until 1910, she worked in a psychiatric clinic in Lausanne and, in 1910–1914, in a similar clinic in Paris. At that time, she was active in the PPS-Left Overseas Organisation. She represented the party at the 2nd International Congress in Copenhagen. In 1912-14, she belonged to the board of an inter-party organisation – "The Fund to Aid Deportees and Political Prisoners in Russia."

In 1914–1916, she worked in an Austrian military hospital in Brno and, from 1916, in a clinic in Waldau near Brno. From 1919, she worked in a municipal hospital in Warsaw and, from 1923, she was a school doctor.

In 1923–1929, she managed the department of the Central Women's Committee of the KPP. She edited the party's press organ "Robotnica". In 1924–1927, she took part in various international congresses of communist organisations and in women's conferences. In 1927, she was a delegate to the 4th Conference of the Polish Communist Party. She was twice arrested for her party activities – in 1928 and 1929. In 1930, she was released on bail and emigrated to the Soviet Union.

She worked in hospitals near Moscow, in a sanatorium for neurotic patients in Golicyń and then at the Psychiatric Institute in Moscow. She belonged to the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), performing many social activities. She was arrested by the NKVD on 10th September 1937 and was sent to a labour camp. In 1944, she was released and, for a certain time, worked as a doctor in the Caucasus.

In the summer of 1945, she returned to Warsaw and joined the Polish Workers Party. She was an inspector at the Bureau of Control at the State Presidium of the National Council (later in the Supreme Audit Office). From 1948, she was deputy director of the National Institute of Mental Hygiene (later called the Central Mental Health Clinic).

She died on 27th October 1952 in Warsaw.

Słownik biograficzny działaczy polskiego ruchu robotniczego, vol. II, p. 556; – H. Piasecki, *Żydowska Organizacja PPS 1893–1907*, Wrocław 1978, p. 137; – A. Uziembło, *W Częstochowie i na Rakowie*, "Niepodległość" 1936, vol. XIV, pp. 352, 359.

Juliusz Sętowski