

SAK (SACK, ZAK) Józef (1899–1965), teacher, politician. He was born on 15th November 1899 in Przemyśl, the son of Gerszona and Sydonia Syma née Blech.

Sak attended the gimnazjum in Zasanie in Przemyśl, and then studied Polish at the Jagiellonian University, where he graduated. In 1925, he began working at the Jewish Gimnazjum in Częstochowa, where he taught Polish literature and language. He had a great command of Polish. He was also a good speaker and so, often, he spoke on behalf of the school at official ceremonies.

In 1929, he was one of the initiators and co-founders of the “Achiezer” Mutual Aid Society in Częstochowa, later serving on the board as vice-president. When an unflattering article about the Society appeared in the “Częstochower Cajtung”, he went to the editorial office and, there, caused a row, including attacking the journalist → Szmul Frank.

In the mid-1930s, with his family, he moved to Warsaw. He was a social activist in the Warsaw ghetto, being a member of the Central Committee of the Poalei Zion (Right wing) party. He co-founded and was a director of the underground Dror Gimnazjum. He headed Szul-Kufl (actually, Szul un Kultur-Farband, the School and Culture Union), an organisation which ran schools in Yiddish, but with a large section in Hebrew. He belonged to the leadership of the “Ruf” publication. He remained in close contact with the Jewish National Committee on the “Aryan side” of Warsaw.

He later hid on the “Aryan side”, living in Izabelin. During the Warsaw Uprising, he joined the Armia Ludowa, fighting with a ŻOB group. Following the fall of the Uprising, Sak, together with a group of comrades-in-arms, joined civilians and ended up in a camp in Pruszków.

From March 1945, he was a member of the Central Committee of Polish Jews. He joined the board of the “Dos Naje Leb'n” magazine. He chaired the Poalei Zion (Right wing) party (from July 1947 – Poalei Zion–Hitachdut). From 4th February 1947 to 4th August 1952, he was a member of the Legislative *Sejm* (gaining a seat on the state list).

He died in Israel in 1965.

His wife was Perla née Dawidowicz, from Częstochowa. Their daughter is Janka Zak, an Israeli writer known as “Sened Jonad”.

C. Lubetkin, *Zagłada a powstanie*, Warsaw 1999, p. 194. A. Grabski, *Żydowski ruch kombatantki w Polsce w latach 1944–1949*, Warsaw 2002, p. 186. *Spis nauczycieli 1926*, p. 294. Ch. Folman-Raban, *Nie rozstałam się z nimi...*, Warsaw 2000, pp. 36, 71, 117, 188. – “Częstochower Cajtung” 1928, No. 5, p. 1; 1929, No. 47, p. 4; No. 48, p. 5.

Wiesław Paszkowski