

International Committee of Exiles and Refugees that were Victims of Fascism and Nazism in 1920-1945

Ljubljana, 4 June 2010

Distinguished
Mr Herman Van Rompuy
President of the European Council

On 6 June 2009, the first European Congress of Exiles, Refugees that were Victims of Fascism and Nazism in the years 1920 to 1945 was held in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia.

The congress was attended by over 5,000 delegates from 85 local and regional organizations of The Society of Slovene Exiles 1941-45 and from Ten European States (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, France, Croatia, Poland, Russia, the Slovak Republic, Serbia and Ukraine). At this congress the International Committee of Exiles and Refugees that were Victims of Fascism and Nazism in 1920-1945 was founded.

The first session of the Committee was held in Ljubljana on 4 June, 2010.

We are conveying to you the following letter.

The fate of exiles and refugees was lived by many European nations who found themselves under German, Italian, Hungarian and other Fascist or Nazi occupation.

We organized the congress to call attention to the injustices committed through the genocide policies of Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany and other states, members of the axis powers, to millions of people, to

exiles, refugees, forced labourers, victims of Fascism and Nazism in the occupied countries. At the same time we want to act for the benefit of all those who were, in the name of racial discrimination, expelled from their homes to exile and forced-labour camps and who were changed into slave labour. In some cases they were forced to leave their homes even before World War II because of the violent measures of the state terror. The wrongs done to them have not been repaired even today when they are, as living witnesses of the then historic events (1938-1945), already in their old age and need material and moral support.

This is why the participants in the congress pointed out that the states that were aggressors and those states that supported such a policy in World War II have to pay the victims of Fascist and Nazi terror, an indemnification.

Distinguished Mr President,

We take the liberty to write this letter to you hoping that you, with all your influence and reputation, can help the exiles and refugees in their endeavours to regulate their status in their own countries as well as to include this category among the participants in the World War II. This status namely differs considerably from one country to another. The endeavours for at least a symbolic indemnification for their suffering and lost property, unfortunately, still remain open. We, who managed to survive, returned in 1945 to our burnt, robbed and devastated homes without anything and without any help whatsoever.

In 1945 the allied states were summoned to submit data on war damages that had occurred on their territory to their people due to aggression and racial discrimination during World War II. The gathered data on war damage were confirmed also at peace and reparation conferences after World War II.

However, the whole world and especially the allied forces, the United States of America, Great Britain, France and Russia know that all the countries have not been put on the list for payment.

Thus the exiles and refugees from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have not received any indemnification for their lost property and real estate, nor for their suffering experienced during World War II.

The division of the victims of the terror of war into Eastern and Western countries was a big mistake. Germany and the world public wished to correct this by passing the German law on the creation of a Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future". However, this law was not enough for the appropriate settlement of the damages inflicted on the victims of Fascism and Nazism considering the fact that it made possible a discriminatory approach at defining quotas for the Eastern European countries.

Unfortunately, the post-war policy of the allied countries did not ensure an appropriate payment of the indemnification either to the countries or to the victims themselves.

Another intention of our writing to you, Mr President, is also the wish to express our strong concern over the occurrence of Neo-Fascism and Neo-Nazism and xenophobia in some European countries as well as elsewhere, the disregard for minorities' rights and attempts to reinterpret the history of World War II for the fulfilment of their political ambitions. The blurring of the causes and consequences of actions relativises brutal policies of the occupying countries during World War II and try to equate some post-war out-of-court measures, which we also disapprove of, with the genocide goals and measures of the Fascist and Nazi occupiers.

In today's difficult economic circumstances, that are demonstrated as a social crisis, it may easily happen that the means for the

indemnification of the damages committed to the victims of World War II who had suffered enormously and have not received any indemnification so far will be reduced even further. Such neglect of social care and solidarity within such a stricken category of the population would be another big mistake and a further injustice for the people concerned. It could cause considerable moral damage to the democratic political culture in Europe which is the basis of a peaceful, democratic cohabitation and European integration. This is why the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Board of Trustees of the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” and the Organization of United Nations should do more to help the elderly, lonely, sick and disabled victims of Fascism and Nazism who experienced the suffering of World War II.

Mr President, we would like to ask you to do more through your influence and reputation to awaken the consciousness of the young generations about the time in which the world was exposed and endangered because of the violence and genocide policies of Fascist and Nazi systems during World War II and in Italy already in the period between the two world wars. We believe this to be the only way to prevent the horrors from the time of Fascist and Nazi domination to reoccur.

Mr President,

We would like to suggest that on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the victory over Fascism and Nazism special attention should be focused on exiles, refugees, forced labourers, victims of Fascism and Nazism in the working bodies of the European Union.

Distinguished Mr President, please, accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

Signatories:

Society of Slovene Exiles 1941-1945



M. Klemenčič

Association of Slovene Deportees Klagenfur

W. Klapa - Slava - Slava

The Circle of Citizens of the Czech Republic
That was exiled from the frontier zone in 1938

KRUIH OSOBNŮ ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY
VYHNANÝCH v r. 1938 Z POHRANIČÍ
P. O. BOX 20, 140 02 PRAHA 42

Jan Procházka

Local Community of the Victims
of Fascism and Nazism in Zagreb

J. M. - J.

Association of Poles deprived
by the Third Reich

STOWARZYSZENIE POLAKÓW
Pozbawionych przez III Rzeszę
ZARZĄD GŁÓWNY
Warszawa, ul. Turecka 3

Russian Association of Former Underage
Prisoners in the Fascist Concentration Camps



J. Sedek

Slovak Association of Anti-Fascist Fighters



Association of exiles and descendants from the
Genocidal camp of NDH 1941-1945, Serbia



M. Klemenčič

Ukrainian Union of Prisoners - Victims of Nazism



M. Klemenčič