



The International Committee of Deportees and Refugees,  
Victims of Fascism and Nazism in 1920–1945

Founded at the First European Congress of deportees and refugees,  
victims of fascism and Nazism, in Ljubljana - Slovenia, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

**No.:** 23/2014

**Date:** 29.9.2014

**Mr. José Manuel Barroso**  
**President of the**  
**European Commission**

We wish to inform you, that we held a meeting of the International Committee of Deportees and Refugees, victims of Nazism and Fascism during 1920–1945, on the 19th and 20th September 2014.

At this meeting of 11 societies and organisations from various European countries (Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Estonia, Austria, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina), we also decided upon preparing a public letter addressed to the presidents of European countries and leaders of the European Union. The delegation leaders who were at the meeting signed this letter.

We are enclosing the letter in the annex with the hope that you read it and give us your opinion with regard to our proposals and initiatives.

Your answer will be addressed at the next meeting of the International Committee of Deportees and Refugees, victims of Nazism and Fascism during 1920–1945, which will take place on the 16th and 17th May 2015 in Prague, the Czech Republic.

We thank you in advance for your reply and respectfully send you our kind regards,

Ivica Žnidaršič, prof.  
President of the International Committee

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## **Open letter to the Presidents of the countries of Europe the European Parliament**

**Dear sirs,**

We write you from the annual gathering of the International Committee of Exiles and Refugees that were Victims of Fascism and Nazism in 1920-1945 which took place in Bratislava, Slovakia, on September 19th and 20th 2014.

Present at the gathering were delegations from organizations and societies from all across Europe that bring together exiles, forced labourers, refugees and underage prisoners of concentration camps who were victims of fascism and nazism between the years 1920 and 1945.

The suffering of the concentration camp prisoners, exiles and refugees that fell victim to German, Italian, Hungarian, Bulgarian and other fascist and nazist occupations has left them with indelible consequences.

After some deliberation, it has become clear to us once again that certain European countries devote too little care to elderly citizens who were victims of fascism and nazism. The care devoted to them, both social and medical, is insufficient, and the compensation for the property damage and injuries that were suffered during the war has not yet been paid.

This is why we call out to the European Parliament and the Presidents of the countries of Europe to become acquainted with the living conditions of the war victims and take measures to ascertain that their conditions improve. Special care must be devoted to those who were left lonely and abandoned. We must never forget the atrocities of the Second World War and the bravery and sacrifices of those who fought against fascism and nazism.



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As living witnesses of the atrocities that fascism and nazism inflicted upon us, we are outraged at the resurgence throughout Europe of these movements that preach racial supremacy and violence.

The European Union and the leaders of the European countries and parliaments should not allow these fascist and nazist movements to grow unchecked. They should stand firmly against all forms of fascism, militant pseudo-patriotism, racism and intolerance in their countries.

We strongly protest the fact that in certain countries, journalists who openly write about the resurgence of nazism and fascism and individuals that are associated with these movements are being prosecuted.

We shall not allow anti-democratic elements to infiltrate our democratic institutions, destroy our freedoms and violate our basic human rights.

Dear all,

In the year 2015, we will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of the allied anti-fascist coalition over the forces of fascism and nazism. This momentous anniversary is the perfect opportunity to acquaint the general public of the whole world with the historical facts of the genocidal politics aimed at exterminating the Slavic nations and the brutal atrocities perpetrated by fascism and nazism during the Second World War.

We protest most firmly against the distortion of history in connection with fascism and nazism. It is of the utmost importance that the younger generations learn of the atrocities perpetrated by the fascist and nazist regimes, how easily our freedom was lost and the great efforts that the anti-Hitlerian coalition undertook in the heroic war for freedom and democracy during the years between 1939 and 1945.

The current generations live in the belief that humanity will not repeat those horrors that made beasts out of men. But the atrocities of the current wars, the genocides against minorities and religious groups remind us all too well of the



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era of fascism and nazism. This is why it is so important that we remember the events of the past.

The current situation leads us to believe that the measures currently being taken by the United Nations to prevent violence and war are simply not sufficient. Millions of modern-day exiles and refugees who flee poverty and the threats of war require the humanitarian help from the developed countries. To deny them help and to erect walls on the borders between countries simply to protect the rich from the poor is not the path we should take to solve these problems.

This is why we urge the European Union and the Presidents of the countries of Europe: seek new ways, new political solutions for maintaining peaceful coexistence between nations and religious groups and new solutions against the rise of violence and the threat of war.

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