

From linguistic segregation to criminal prosecution. Anti-Russianism in the Baltic States and Ukraine

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Russian civil society and organizations of Russian compatriots abroad state that linguistic segregation has become the basis of policy in the Baltic countries and Ukraine, where it is implemented in relation to the Russian-speaking and Russian-cultural populations that make up at least 30-40% of the populations of these countries. Extensive political persecution and mass arrests of human rights defenders and Russophiles are aimed at suppressing the realization of fundamental human rights to mother tongue education, access to information in one's native language, and the accessibility of state institutions and the mass media in one's native language.

The indigenous Russian-speaking population of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Ukraine is in a situation, in which there is a prohibition on receiving education in their native language, which in itself is one of the most glaring examples of a new form of racism spanning the European continent and expressed as anti-Russianism. We are warning the international community that the authorities in these European countries are essentially beginning a new anti-Russian Holocaust!

But a simple legislative prohibition will fail and will never succeed in eradicating loyalty to one's mother tongue, the pull of one's native culture, or the population's need for a spiritual connection with their historical center of civilization, Russia.

In order to suppress national minorities, the ethnocracies of these countries must commit criminal actions against the leaders of Russian national organizations, initiating unproven, but nonetheless real, criminal cases and legal proceedings through law enforcement agencies, and thereby destroying the life, family, and health of those who disagree with the new racism. We have observed this in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and in Ukraine. Algirdas Paleckis, Alexander Gaponenko, Yuri Alekseev, Vladimir Linderman, speaking out for the inalienable human right to speak one's native language, were faced with illegal accusations from authorities using far-fetched wording, and were imprisoned and tortured. Less than a month ago, the Latvian State Security Service opened a new criminal case. Members of the board of the Russian Union of Latvia and the organizer of the educational project

“Dictation in the Russian Language” in Latvia, Alexander Filey, are threatened with five years in prison.

We demand the intervention of the UN High Commissioner for National Minorities in both of these specific cases, which are evidence of racism in Europe, as well as the discriminatory language policies of these countries, which completely neglect the human values that the UN Human Rights Council is called upon to defend.

We demand the UN High Commissioner for National Minorities includes in his report to the 74th session of the UN Human Rights Council a report on the observance of the rule of law and the absence of segregation bias in the criminal prosecution of the persons mentioned above, as well as a report of on the facts of social segregation according to language in Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

Considering that the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine and the Baltic countries should be granted the same linguistic rights as those granted to Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars living in Crimea since 2014, we suggest holding an annual regional European Regional Forum of National Minorities in Russia, in the Republic of Crimea, in order to study practices in the education in and teaching of minority languages provided today to national minorities in Crimea.