

Member of the Month



Construction of a monument at a location of historical significance

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THE GENOCIDE AND RESISTANCE RESEARCH CENTRE OF LITHUANIA

■ **The Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania** is a state research institute. It was established by the Lithuanian parliament in 1993. The tasks of the Centre comprise the restoration of historical truth and justice, investigation of the physical and spiritual genocide of the Lithuanian population perpetrated by the occupation regimes during the period of 1939–1990, resistance against these regimes, perpetuating the remembrance of the freedom fighters and victims of genocide, and initiation of a legal assessment of the consequences of the occupations. The Centre reports back to the Lithuanian parliament and the government.

The Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania is made up of the Genocide and Resistance Research Department, the Special Investigation Unit and the Memorial Department. The Genocide and Resistance Research Department is engaged in scientific analysis of the processes that occurred during the Nazi and Soviet occupations. The highly professional historians publish hundreds of articles and participate in various international conferences in Lithuania and other countries. Every year two or three conferences are also organised by the Centre itself. There is also a Publishing Unit,

which issues magazines and books in Lithuanian, English and other languages. The Special Investigation Unit investigates crimes of the Nazi and Soviet regimes and learns about their perpetrators because it is liable for supply of this information to Lithuanian law-and-order institutions during legal investigations and court cases related to crimes committed during the Nazi and Soviet occupations. The Memorial Department is responsible for the commemorations of important historic dates. Its activities include marking with monuments or plaques places where killings were committed by Nazis and the Soviets, as well as places where fights for freedom took place. The Memorial Department also collects oral, written and video testimonies and other historical documentary materials connected with the period of the Nazi and Soviet occupations. It also includes the Museum of Genocide Victims, which is situated in the former KGB headquarters and prison in Vilnius. The Museum is quite popular among tourists from various countries and has some 60,000 visitors per year. It should attract even more visitors when the exhibitions at the branch known as the Memorial Complex of the Tuskulėnai Peace Park will be completed in a few years.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE GENOCIDE AND RESISTANCE RESEARCH CENTRE OF LITHUANIA

■ On 6 March 2015, an event commemorating the 25th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence will be held in the Italian Chamber of Deputies in Rome. H.E. Jolanta Balčiūnienė, the Lithuanian Ambassador to Italy, H.E. Irena Vaišvilaitė, the Lithuanian Ambassador to the Holy See, members of the Italian Parliament, members of the Lithuanian community in Italy and other distinguished guests will be among the participants. During the event, information on the occupation of Lithuania in the mid-20th century, reprisals against the Soviet regime, and the dedicated and persistent Lithuanians' struggle for independence will be presented to the Italian audience. The Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania is one of the partners of the event. In cooperation with the Il Cerchio publishing house, an Italian translation of the book *The Unknown War. Armed anti-Soviet resistance in Lithuania in 1944–1953* by Rokas Tracevskis and Dalia Kuodytė will also be introduced. The book was originally prepared and published in Lithuania by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania.



■ On 12 and 13 March 2015, the final events of the European project AGE (Amnesia Gulag in Europe) will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania. The project is funded by the EU's Europe for Citizens Programme, Action 4 "Active European Remembrance". The project is led by the Department of Political Science, Communication and International Relations of the University of Macerata (Italy). The Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania is one of the project partners. While in Vilnius, the project partners from Italy will learn how the policy of historical memory is implemented in Lithuania, what place the problems of the history of the 20th century occupy in the education process, and other issues of interest to them. The guests will be introduced to the activities of the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, will visit the Museum of Genocide Victims located in the former KGB headquarters, and will also visit the Memorial Complex of the Tuskulėnai Peace Park, which was opened in the location of the mass graves of the victims of the former Soviet totalitarian regime. A meeting will be held at the Conference Hall of the Memorial Complex, during which the results of the AGE project will be discussed. The publication "**Remembering the Gulag. Images and Imagination**" prepared during the project and articles published in it will be presented at the meeting. More information on the project is available at www.amnesiagulag.eu