



SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

RESOLUTION

ON THE DESTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MEMORY IN RUSSIA

7 May 2026 No XV-883
Vilnius

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,
acting in view of the fact that:

1) On 19 April 2026, the Remembrance Square for victims of political repression was destroyed in the city of Tomsk (Russian Federation). This included the removal of the monument erected in 2016 with the funds provided by the State of Lithuania to commemorate Lithuanian political prisoners and deportees, the dismantling of the “Stone of Sorrow” dedicated to the victims of Bolshevik terror, as well as the destruction of other national memorials honouring Latvian, Estonian and Polish victims of the Stalinist repression who were executed by the NKVD in Tomsk during the period of Soviet terror;

2) Further instances of the destruction of historical memory of the Lithuanian nation in the Russian Federation are being recorded: educational institutions and Lithuanian schools in which the Lithuanian language has been taught are being closed; in the Kaliningrad region, an association dedicated to the promotion of the Lithuanian language has been deregistered by court decision; the activities of artistic collectives are being suspended; the name of one of the most prominent cultural institutions in the region, the Kristijonas Donelaitis Memorial Museum in Tolminkiemis (Chistyje Prudy), has been changed to the “Literature Museum”; in Tilžė (Sovetsk), a commemorative plaque dedicated to the writer and philosopher Wilhelm Storost-Vydūnas has been removed; in the city of Vladimir, a memorial commemorating the Archbishop Mečislovas Reinys, inter-war Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been demolished; Lithuania’s history is being falsified and all traces of the Lithuanian history and culture are being erased;

considering these actions as a consistent policy of neo-Stalinism aimed at erasing the memory of the crimes of the totalitarian regime and constructing a pseudo-historical narrative (namely, that political repression did not take place in the Soviet Union), thereby creating a dangerous tendency

which may have long-term consequences not only for Russian society but also for the security and historical identity of Europe as a whole;

noting that Russia, through the deliberate distortion of historical facts, seeks to divide the world into spheres of influence and rewrite history by diminishing the repressions and occupations suffered by Lithuania and other countries;

emphasising that through such systematic actions the authorities of the Russian Federation strive to justify their aggression against Ukraine, including territorial claims and military actions, as well as their aggressive policy towards neighbouring states, to cast doubt on the statehood or historical legitimacy of the Baltic States, Ukraine and other countries that were occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union and to disseminate disinformation;

condemns the deliberate policy pursued by the Russian Federation aimed at the destruction of historical memory and Lithuanian culture. The symbols of historical memory and cultural heritage constitute an essential part of the national identity of peoples and their destruction cannot be justified by any imperial or political interests;

expresses its protest against such barbaric actions by the authorities of the Russian Federation and calls for the restoration of the destroyed monuments and symbols of historical and cultural memory in Tomsk, the Kaliningrad region and other regions of Russia, noting that all of them were established with funds provided by the Republic of Lithuania, in compliance with the laws of the Russian Federation and with the consent of the local authorities;

stresses that the destruction of historical and cultural memory and the denial of Soviet repression contradict the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, as well as other important international legal acts and principles. According to these principles, the deliberate demolition of monuments, the destruction of historical sites, the rewriting of history, the disregard for cultural heritage, or repression against national communities are considered not only a violation of international law, but also a crime;

calls on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania to address the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other international organisations with a request to assess the actions of deliberate destruction of the memory of victims of the totalitarian regime and cultural memory and heritage in the Russian Federation and to take concrete measures to defend the historical truth and freedom of remembrance.