



## SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

### RESOLUTION ON THE DEPORTATIONS OF LITHUANIA'S INHABITANTS ORGANISED AND CARRIED OUT BY THE SOVIET OCCUPYING POWER AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF LITHUANIA

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Vilnius

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

*marking* the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the largest deportation of the 20<sup>th</sup> century carried out in Lithuania on 22 May 1948 under the code name *Vesna* ('Spring') by the Soviet Union's occupation regime,

*recalling* the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 21 February 1948, pursuant to which the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Lithuania and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania adopted, on 18 May 1948, a detailed Resolution on Measures Relating to the Eviction of Families of Bandits and Their Collaborators Kulaks', which was marked as 'Top Secret', and a special Instruction for the Reception and Realisation of Livestock, Agricultural Equipment, Agricultural Products, Crops, Buildings and Other Property Seized in the Farms of Bandits and the Farms of Their Collaborators Kulaks and carried out torture, deportation, confiscation and misappropriation of property of Lithuania's inhabitants, including partisans and other participants in the underground and resistance to the Soviet occupation and their family members, organised large-scale propaganda campaigns to justify their actions and to discredit deported Lithuania's inhabitants with defamatory claims;

*stating* that, on 22-23 May 1948, 40 002 Lithuania's inhabitants, namely, 11 365 families, including almost 12 000 children and some 5 000 persons over 60 years of age, were forcibly deported and that a significant number of the deportees died during the deportation campaigns (shot dead while trying to escape), many infants, young children and elderly persons died of diseases, due to unsanitary conditions and lack of food while being transported in stock cars to deportation places,

*stressing* that due to unbearable work, unsuitable, unusual and exhausting living and sanitary conditions, poor and meagre food, and diseases more than 5 000 persons out of those

deported in 1948, including almost 1 000 children, died in exile and that even more deportees were physically, psychologically and spiritually crippled for life,

*noting* that the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has repeatedly found that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union played a decisive role in the occupation and annexation of Lithuania and other Baltic States (*Kuolelis, Bartoševičius and Burokevičius v. Lithuania, Ždanoka v. Latvia* and other cases) and, on 9 September 2019, the ECHR found in *Drėlingas v. Lithuania* that the Soviet occupation regime committed genocide of Lithuania's inhabitants, including partisans,

*having regard to* Resolution No XIII-531 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 27 June 2017 on Assessing the Criminal Activities of the Communist Party of Lithuania and drawing attention to the criminal activities carried out by the Communist Party of Lithuania as a legal entity in committing crimes of the occupation regime,

**recognises** that the Communist Party of Lithuania was responsible for the pre-planned destruction of Lithuania's inhabitants, confiscation and misappropriation of their property, torture, deportation and large-scale propaganda campaigns aimed at justifying its actions against the people of Lithuania, carried out deliberately under its instructions during 1940-1963 by the Soviet occupation and repression structures and being equivalent to genocide;

**recognises** that on the initiative of the Communist Party of Lithuania, additional resolutions were adopted by the Soviet occupation administration to restrict the rights of the deported Lithuania's inhabitants, with more than 50 000 deportees from Lithuania thereby denied the right to return to Lithuania, while those who were allowed to do so, along with their children, were subjected to prolonged discrimination by the Soviet occupying power by being denied registration of their place of residence, access to employment and to university education, and taking up of residence in the homeland;

**invites** state institutions and responsible educational and training institutions of the Republic of Lithuania to ensure dissemination of information about the history of the struggle and suffering of the people of Lithuania, the criminal activities of the Soviet occupation regime and the Communist Party of Lithuania, remembrance of the deportation of Lithuania's inhabitants, as this undoubtedly relates to remembrance of the deportation of Ukrainians and their children, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity currently perpetrated by the Russian Federation.