



SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

RESOLUTION ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY OF THE DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM

12 January 2021 No XIV-163
Vilnius

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

having regard to the fact that 13 January 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the countering of the aggression of the Soviet Union,

acknowledging the international significance of the Lithuanian Reform Movement Sąjūdis in the context of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the liberation of the Central and Eastern European countries from the Soviet regime,

recalling the support of the international community, in particular the Nordic countries and the United States of America, as well as the leadership and people of democratic Russia, for Lithuania's peaceful resistance to the aggression of the Soviet Union in 1991,

noting that, after countering the aggression of the Soviet Union in 1991, Lithuania has come a long way of reforms and achieved a great deal in thirty years, such as returning to the international community of states as a full-fledged member, joining the world's strongest defence alliance, consolidating energy independence and finally becoming a modern and progressive state,

welcoming the fact that between 1999 and 2001 the courts heard the case related to the aggression of the Soviet Union in 1991, that the guilty persons were prosecuted and that justice will also be done in respect to other persons involved in these crimes,

drawing attention to propaganda and disinformation activities that attempt to undermine Lithuania's independence, remembrance of the defenders of freedom, to distort history and to incite national tensions,

reminding that today a generation born in independent Lithuania and raised in freedom already partakes in the state-building, that this generation has learnt about the aggression of 13 January from history textbooks, parents or witnesses, and that it has become part of the free world of Western civilisation values,

emphasising that the historic victory was won by Lithuania with its Supreme Council-Reconstituent Seimas being led by the highest-ranking official of the Republic of Lithuania Vytautas Landsbergis,

considering the significance of 13 January, the Day of the Defenders of Freedom, for the history of the State of Lithuania and the world,

expresses profound respect for the defenders of freedom of Lithuania and the victims who safeguarded freedom and independence of Lithuania on the tragic night of 13 January 1991;

notes that during the 1991 aggression of the Soviet Union against the independent Republic of Lithuania re-established on 11 March 1990, the signatories of the Act of Independence of Lithuania, defenders of freedom, and volunteers demonstrated their determination and readiness to fight and to die for freedom by defending the Lithuanian Parliament;

emphasises that 13 January showcases to all generations that freedom should not be taken for granted, it was not a gift, it was won through bloodshed;

notes that 13 January was one of the factors that contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union and totalitarian Communist regime, to the consolidation of democracy and human rights in the post-Soviet space, and to the return of Central and Eastern European countries to the family of European democracies;

condemns the decisions of the authorities of the Russian Federation to persecute the judges, prosecutors and other law enforcement officers of the Republic of Lithuania who have investigated and conducted criminal proceedings for crimes against humanity committed during the aggression of the Soviet Union in 1991;

states that such decisions by the authorities of the Russian Federation are contrary to the conviction of the Russian Federation, as expressed in the preamble to the Treaty of 29 July 1991 on the Foundations of Inter-State Relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation, regarding the need to eliminate the aftermath of the 1940 annexation by the Soviet Union, contrary to the provision of Article 1 of this Treaty recognising the state status of the Republic of Lithuania enshrined in the fundamental acts adopted on 11 March 1990, and contrary to the position of the then leader of democratic Russia Boris Yeltsin to condemn the actions of the Soviet Union in 1991 and to support the fight for freedom in Lithuania;

stresses that the persecution of judges, prosecutors and other law enforcement officers of the sovereign and independent State for their constitutional duties to investigate crimes against humanity and to administer justice in such cases is illegal and intolerable;

calls on the Government of the Republic of Lithuania to take effective measures to ensure the safety of judges, prosecutors and other law enforcement officers of the Republic of Lithuania exposed to the unlawful proceedings initiated by the Russian Federation;

stresses that, in addition to the readiness to defend freedom with arms, it is also essential to strengthen the unarmed defence of freedom by building society's resilience to lies and disinformation and by fostering historical memory;

is confident that it is appropriate to declare 13 January, the Day of the Defenders of Freedom, a public holiday.