

Violation of children's rights to education and the preservation of identity in the Baltic States

Children have the right to education and the preservation of their identity, especially ethnic. This right shall provide them with the parents and the state. In that case, when the state violates the law, in case human rights activists come.

I want to dwell on the situation in the Baltic countries. Since independence in those countries seriously affected the rights of children. In Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, the children of national minorities were denied the right to receive higher education, secondary special and professional education in the mother - Russian language in public schools. Last 5 children lost the right to receive education in their native language in the senior classes of secondary schools. Russian schools and grammar schools closed or forcibly transferred to a training in the language of the titular nation. In Latvia, the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the state, by 2018, the ruling coalition is going to eliminate the education in Russian at all.

Parents protest against these orders, but the government represses them. In particular, the activists defending the rights of children are pursued by special services. Such cases are described in detail in our book, "The persecution of human rights defenders in the Baltic States", which will be presented today at 18.00 in the second audience.

The electronic version of the book can be found here: www.academia.edu/28645880/PROSECUTION_OF_HUMAN_RIGHTS_ACTIVISTS_IN_THE_BALTIC_STATES

In Latvia it came even before the closure of private schools with Russian as the language of instruction. Here is an example. Private school "Innova", recognized as the best school of the Russian diaspora, has been subjected to unjustified inspections and deprived of the license for teaching. License it was deprived after the security police had sent a letter to the Ministry of Education, in which he accused the school authorities of disloyalty. In Latvia, the secret police can independently define what a loyal and disloyal behavior and punish the behavior of defenders, which she does not like. School was deprived of the license for two days before delivery of the children in the school final examinations, although before that she worked without remarks quarter of a century. Children's rights to education were severely disrupted.

What was the so-called disloyalty school leaders? They held a symbolic event - a march "Immortal regiment." This procession, which involved children and adults, are portraits of their relatives who fought in World War II on the side of

the anti-Hitler coalition. Children start at the end of the procession with white balloons tied to them with paper cranes, which symbolize the memory of relatives killed in the war. It is a way to preserve family memories of relatives, a way to preserve the identification of children, the way the anti-Nazi and democratic education. Last year, in this kind of procession was attended by 5 million. People across Europe. These were the representatives of different ethnic groups. In Latvia, for this kind of symbolic action activists deprive business, and children's right to education in their native language, the right to identity, intimidate them.

Please OSCE leadership to pay attention to such violent behavior Latvian authorities in regard to the children of national minorities and take measures to protect them. Mechanism of International Legal Protection of us is described in the above-mentioned book on the violation of the rights of human rights defenders in the Baltic States.

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