

Report:
**History falsification and nationalism propaganda
as the elements of state policy in Ukraine**

Dear participants of the conference!

I am the representative of Ukraine. This year our country celebrates the 65th anniversary of liberation from German fascist invaders. Next year this memorable date will be celebrated all over Europe.

Today it is hard to imagine that Vichy's, Kwisling's and Horti's supporters would easily march in Europe. Europe found the strength to get rid of not only Nazis, but also of their accomplices.

Unfortunately we see quite opposite situation in Ukraine. For the last five years history falsification and propaganda of nationalism firmly became the elements of the state policy led by the President Victor Yushchenko.

I will speak in the language of facts. After V. Yushchenko's accession to power in 2005 the total heroization of the members of the Organization of Ukrainian nationalists and its fighting abettor Ukrainian Insurgent Army (OUN-UPA abbreviated). This organization was created in 20-30-ies of the last century by the Ukrainian emigrants living in Europe.

OUN-UPA professed the fascist's ideology of "integral nationalism". One of the main theorists of OUN M. Stsiborskiy wrote that fascism was a political standard and driving force which raises nation on the highest historical level.

By the beginning of the World War II all the leaders of OUN-UPA collaborated with German military intelligence service and Gestapo. With the beginning of the war militants of OUN-UPA started to annihilate civilian population on the territories invaded by the German fascists. Polish and Jewish people were especially exposed to terror.

Ukrainian battalions "Roland" and "Nahtigail" and later division "Galichina" were created under the guidance of OUN-UPA leaders.

I noticed this historical fact in order to show who are considered to be heroes by the Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko.

Nowadays Ukraine is probably the only country where streets of the cities are named after nationalists and fascists accomplices and where they are honored with the highest state awards.

For instance, in 2007 Victor Yushchenko signed the decree of conferment a posthumous title “Hero of Ukraine” to the Officer Roman Shukhevich, in spite of the fact that International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg declared SS to be a criminal organization.

At the same time in Lviv, in the Mars field, Memorial to the Soviet soldiers who were killed during the years of the Great Patriotic War was being destroyed and the construction of the monument to fascist’s accomplices from OUN-UPA was being completed. Meanwhile there is an obvious violation of the Law of Ukraine on immortalization of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.

To please the distortions and outright politization of the World War II history the school textbooks and programs are being rewritten in the way that these were OUN-UPA militants who represented the main Ukrainian heroes-liberators. In fact this creates a new ideological basis for young generation upbringing who would worship fascism.

Moreover, for such purposes the present Ukrainian authorities involve special services which have to defend our national interests. For instance, Ukrainian Security Service. SBU abbreviated.

In 2008 under the guidance of Ukrainian Security Service photo exhibition about OUN-UPA militants was held for schoolchildren and it provoked quite negative reaction not only of scientific community but also of population. For example, the photos of OUN-UPA leader Evgen Konovalets’ in the surrounding of his accomplices were represented at the exhibition.

However, when historians had found the original of this photo in the archives, it appeared to be that Evgen Konovalets’ was sitting in the surrounding of

the students of German Abver and SS officers. But the most awful thing is that SBU erased all nazist stripes with the help of photomontage.

Here is another example. Just after V. Yushchenko had become the President of Ukraine, he promised to erect a war memorial to the victims in Babiy Yar, a concentration camp where Nazi annihilated peaceful population, mainly Jews.

A number of serious international conferences were held, but still there is no mentioned memorial in Babiy Yar. Apparently one of the reasons of this is that these were Ukrainian collaborators working with OUN-UPA who drove together Jewish population to Babiy Yar. And Ukrainian authorities prohibit talking about this openly.

Ukrainian society worries about all these and many other facts very much. Famous Ukrainian scientists, politicians, and public figures have already united in order to create Antifascist Committee in Ukraine.

That is why I appeal to you. At present on the state level the popularization of Nazi accomplices is being held in Ukraine. The young generation of Ukrainian citizens is taught with corrupted facts which aim is to form aggressive and hostile relation towards neighbours, first of all towards Russia, and fading of our common history.

It was not by chance that on the 18th of November 2008 V. Yushchenko`s ruling regime refused to sign the resolution of the Committee on social and humanitarian questions of the United Nations Organization General Assembly which “urges member states of the United Nations Organization to take measures on cessation of Nazism and its accomplices heroization, including former members of “Vaffen SS”, destruction and defilement of monuments to fighters with Nazism, because such actions create a real danger to democratic values”.

I want to draw attention of everybody present here to this problem, moreover, this is happening in the heart of Europe. Xenophobia, spiritual aggressiveness and one-side intolerance to own history are the links of one chain of fascist heroes and ideas propaganda in Ukraine. We must not shut our eyes to it. I

kindly ask you to give these facts corresponding estimations and to have discussions on this matter. Otherwise, the policy of double standards of Ukrainian authorities, when there is a course to democracy, and in reality society fascization is happening, will throw Ukraine back from European society for a long time.