

Ladies and gentlemen!

I and my organization have stood for education for many years in their native language. In Estonia there are 2 large language communities - Estonian and Russian. 60% of the population are estonian speakers, 31% - russian speakers. That is, more than a third of the population has historically lived and studied in native Russian for 300 years. But in recent years, the Estonian authorities have been intensively nationalizing a multinational country.

First, they eliminated higher education on Russian language, now they are eliminating our Russian schools.

Recently, the government of Estonia have launched a campaign to eliminate the remnants of Russian education. They plan to close the Russian kindergartens.

The requirement for teaching in Estonian in schools is mainly based on the fact that Estonian is the official language in Estonia.

Let me remind you that Russians are an autochthonous minority in Estonia and Russian schools have existed in Estonia since the 18th century.

We have good legislation, laws and the Constitution what allow us to have an education in Russian. However, when making decisions on matters, they are always guided solely by the preamble of the Constitution, which states that the Republic of Estonia which shall guarantee the preservation of the Estonian nation and its culture throughout the ages.

This provision is interpreted such a way that the state is obliged to maximally estonize all spheres of life, including education. And everything that does not contribute to estonization is an enemy of statehood.

In accordance with this logic, it is not necessary to develop the Estonian, but it is necessary to fight against all non-Estonian.

This is also indicated by the fact that the state does not provide instruction in the Estonian language for all comers. In this year, for the first time for 26 years were opened Estonian language free courses. But in the first few hours the registration on the site was over. And many thousands of people have remained without long-awaited courses.

We call on the Estonian government not to ignore own and international legislation and to execute all available national minorities rights.