

IGCP statement on Consideration of the Bill on the Status of the veteran in Latvia

On June 20, 2017, Latvian Sēms (The Parliament of the state) took the draft law on the status of the participant of the Second World War, according to which the ones recognized as veterans will only be the citizens of Latvia at the date of June 17, 2017, for the further consideration.

If the law is passed the status of the participant of the War will be given only to the citizens of Latvia, who were the militants from the both sides, from June 17, 1940 till September 2, 1945.

Thus, the draft law leads to two global consequences:

- 1) The status of the veteran will be given to all former collaborators and Nazi accomplices, including Waffen SS, Police battalions, Gestapo and Concentration Camps Guard members.
- 2) The Non-Citizens of Latvia, who fought in the Armies of the countries of the Anti-Hitler coalition and who came to Latvia after June 17, 1940, will be deprived their rights (as well as appropriate social defense).

This is unacceptable situation from our point of view. The draft law leads to discrimination of the veterans of the Anti-Hitler coalition and testifies for the ongoing glorification of Nazi collaborators in Latvia. In this regard, we demand from the government of Latvia to deny this draft law and strongly recommend to pay attention to such glorification attempts of Nazi collaborators to international organizations.

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