



Tribute to Liberty Receives Donations from Hungary and the Czech Republic

This summer Tribute to Liberty received generous donations from two European countries that suffered under Communism; the Czech Republic donated 21,780 CAD and Hungary donated 115,000 CAD.

Tribute to Liberty is grateful for these meaningful donations.

Tribute to Liberty Chair Ludwik Klimkowski was in Budapest to receive the Hungarian donation. At the presentation ceremony Zoltan Balog, Minister of Human Resources of Hungary, said, "Through this contribution the people of Hungary would like to thank Canada for providing refuge and a new home for those Hungarians who fled after the revolution in 1956. We also would like to thank Canadians of Hungarian descent for their tremendous help and contribution to end Communist oppression in Hungary and in the rest of the world."

Mr. Klimkowski told the people gathered at the ceremony that "the legacy of Communist oppression left hundreds of thousands of stories of crippled human lives in the European country of Hungary. 40,000 of these victims and their stories made it to Canada in 1956-1957. These stories of human lives are now a part of Canada's history and it is our task to share as many of them as possible through the Memorial to the Victims of Communism in Ottawa."

These donations are the second and third donations Tribute to Liberty has received from European countries that suffered under Communism. Earlier in 2015 Latvia donated 10,000 euros.

Tribute to Liberty is a Canadian organization whose mission is to establish a memorial to the victims of Communism in the National Capital Region.

Tribute to Liberty's Newsletter is published four times a year. If you would like to add an email address to our subscriber list please email info@tributetoliberty.ca.

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Tribute to Liberty Participates in Capital Ukrainian Festival

Tribute to Liberty participated in Ottawa's inaugural Capital Ukrainian Festival the last weekend in July. Tribute to Liberty Project Coordinator Anna Dombrovska passed out information about the memorial and talked to festival attendees about the progress of the project. More than 7,500 people attended the festival. Ms. Dombrovska said the festival was a great opportunity to talk directly with people about the project and to meet some of Tribute to Liberty's donors.



Fairchild TV's Coverage of the Memorial

Fairchild Television, a Chinese media corporation operating nationwide in Canada, has produced a special program about the memorial which can be viewed online [here](#). The program takes an in-depth look at the memorial including interviews with Tribute to Liberty board members about the memorial's history, purpose, design and location.



History Unhidden *The Case of Belarus*

The following is excerpted from a speech given by Ivonka Survilla, President in Exile of the Rada of the Belarusian Democratic Republic, at a 2008 conference titled "European Conscience and Communism" in the parliament of the Czech Republic.

I have the honour to be the sixth President in Exile of the Rada of the Belarusian Democratic Republic. The BNR Rada is the longest living government in exile. It left Belarus close to ninety years ago, because of the aggression and the subsequent occupation of our independent state by our Communist neighbour.

Because of that Communist neighbour, I lost my homeland at the age of eight, I grew up as a refugee child and have lived most of my life far from my people, from my culture, from my extended family. I had to adapt to four new cultures before I reached the age of twelve. At the age of three, I was deprived of the presence of my father, while he was in a Soviet jail. My grandfather died while being deported to Siberia. My only sister died at the age of eighteen months as a consequence of the ordeal my family had experienced while fleeing the Soviets.

I am one of the six million Belarusians whose life has been altered or destroyed by what we still call Communism, but what in fact is a deficient ideology become a powerful tool in the hands of an amoral, system, which has used it to create the rightly called "evil empire."

Three generations of Belarusians have been victimized by the criminals who have used Communist ideology in order to brainwash or terrorize a nation into submission. The exacerbated survival instinct thus developed still continues to deprive the people of Belarus of the most basic of human rights—FREEDOM.

The crimes of the Soviet regime against the people of Belarus have been twofold—the crimes against individual Belarusians and the ethnocide, i.e. the crimes against the nation, affecting the very existence of the people of Belarus and of Belarus itself.

The forced collectivization, which, from the end of the twenties to the beginning of the fifties, affected the totality of the Belarusian rural community, and resulted in 350,000 victims (J.Zaprudnik, 1998) is one aspect of the first category.

So are the mass graves of Kurapaty, near Miensk, uncovered twenty years ago by Zenon Pazniak, and the many other mass graves in Belarus, which contain the remains of the two million innocent Belarusians, who died as a result of Stalinist purges between 1937 and 1939.

One in every four Belarusians died as a result of the Second World War, which was partly fought on Belarusian territory. Both German Nazis and Soviet Russia must be held responsible for this slaughter.

The post-war purges in Belarus and the deportation of hundreds of thousands of Belarusians to Siberia up to the early sixties are another chapter of the history of Soviet Belarus.

Little did we know at that time, that Moscow had finally completed its cynical task of brainwashing the people of Belarus into believing, that Russia was in fact the benevolent “big brother,” without whom they had no chance to survive. The Russian speaking HOMO SOVIETICUS was born.

The second category of Kremlin’s crimes against the people of Belarus was intended to erase from the maps of the world the very existence of the country of Belarus and of the nation, which had lived on its territory for one thousand years.

The first crime in that category was the aggression and destruction of the Belarusian Democratic Republic in 1918 and the division of Belarus by the Treaty of Riga, reducing the resulting territory of the Belarusian Socialist Soviet Republic, which was created to replace the independent Belarusian Democratic Republic, to a fraction of the ethnic territory of Belarus.

I would count in this category the extermination of Belarusian writers, artists, politicians and of the vast majority of the national intelligentsia, which lasted from the end of the twenties to the end of the thirties. According to historian Jan Zaprudnik, “Of the 238 writers arrested during the years of repression, only about 20 survived...The Belarusian Academy of Sciences lost ‘nearly ninety percent’ of its member.”

Our churches were blown up, our material heritage has been destroyed not only by war, but in the sixties and still is, because they are the proof of the long existence of a highly civilized European country, which made it hard to pretend that it was created in 1919.

After our family escaped the Soviet Empire, my father considered it his mission to explain to the

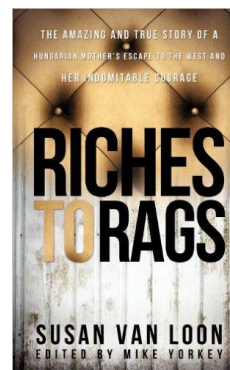
“intellectuels de gauche” whom we met in France what Communist rule meant. At my father’s funeral, a good friend told me that he realized my father was telling the truth only after the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968...For twenty years this friend who was a lawyer and had every chance to verify the facts, was obviously not able to admit, that he was wrong. This is probably also why there are still people in Belarus, who readily believe the propaganda of the present regime.

Although we rarely learn from the mistakes of the past, I hope that the time will come when the Soviet lesson will be learned by the thinking portion of humanity.



Resource Spotlight

Riches to Rags by Susan Van Loon



This novel by Susan Van Loon is inspired by the story of her family’s experience of Communism in their native Hungary and of their escape to Canada in 1956 when she was 10 years old. Ms. Van Loon’s mother, Ann Szegedi, has written to Tribute to Liberty to express her support for the memorial. She says that she is forever grateful for the opportunity Canada provided to start a new life. For more information about the book or to purchase it, click [here](#).



Wall of Remembrance

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM

Construction on The National Memorial To The Victims of Communism will begin in 2016.

You can **forever memorialize the name of a loved one** on the Memorial to The Victims of Communism's Wall of Remembrance with a \$1000 donation.

Space on the wall is limited. Make your donation today to ensure that the world never forgets the suffering endured under communism.

**Visit tributetoliberty.ca/contribute to donate
or call Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair, Tribute to Liberty
at: 1 (613) 841-2772**



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