



## First Phase of Construction Begins for Memorial to Victims of Communism!

At the end of June the National Capital Commission (NCC) gave approval to Tribute to Liberty to begin the first phase of construction for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism on a parcel of land adjacent to the Supreme Court of Canada. This phase will involve decontamination of the memorial site this summer.

At the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting a revised design for the memorial was also presented to the NCC. Updates to the design include:

1. Reducing the scale of the memorial in keeping with the design guidelines established for the site.
2. Retaining existing landscape elements and mature plantings for a strengthened landscape design.
3. Permitting greater visitor access to the memorial site, including improved universal accessibility.
4. Emphasizing the theme of Canada as a land of refuge in the memorial's imagery and messaging.
5. Addressing remaining security, safety and maintenance concerns.
6. Introducing a more neutral and nuanced lighting design for the memorial.

Chair of Tribute to Liberty Ludwik Klimkowski says he is very happy about being one step closer to the memorial being a reality. Mr. Klimkowski told the *Globe and Mail* in a recent interview: "I'm very happy with the modified plans. They reflect our willingness to be fully engaged in the design process and provide a tremendous opportunity for all Canadians to claim the ownership of the memorial."

The design for the memorial is expected to receive final approval from the NCC later this summer after a final set of refinements is made.

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](mailto:info@tributetoliberty.ca).

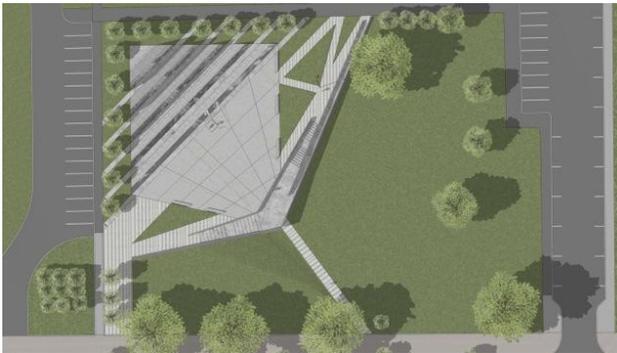
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Rendering of revised memorial design. More images on next page.



For more information on the revised design please visit the NCC's [website](#).

## Tribute to Liberty Participates in Journey to Freedom Day

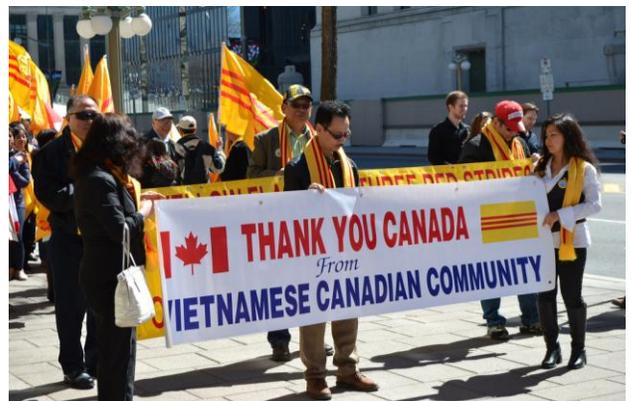
On April 30<sup>th</sup> Tribute to Liberty Board Chair Ludwik Klimkowski and Treasurer Alide Forstmanis marched with hundreds of Vietnamese Canadians from the victims of Communism memorial site to Parliament Hill on Canada's inaugural "Journey to Freedom Day" to commemorate the anniversary of the fall of Saigon and the beginning of Communist rule in Vietnam and Canada's welcoming of 60,000 Vietnamese refugees.

Mr. Klimkowski spoke at the event saying to the crowd of Vietnamese Canadians gathered that "It

troubles us greatly when some prominent members of our community say that your story is not Canadian enough, that you don't belong. They want you and your memory to be relegated to some dark corner of Canadian history." They claim this land is better used and better suited for a stack of papers and endless corridors of file cabinets."

"Your Journey to Freedom will remain restless until people like they embrace you and demand for the memory and justice for your wife and daughters raped and killed at the sea, for your fathers and sons blown up in the fields of rice," said Mr. Klimkowski.

It is estimated that approximately 1 million Vietnamese people have been killed as a result of Communism. For more information on the history of Communism in Vietnam visit the virtual [Museum on Communism](#).



## Resource Spotlight

### *Dissident Blog*

From the blog: "[Dissident](#) blog is your go-to source for news and commentary on the ideology, history, and legacy of communism. Our content sheds light on the ugly reality of communism—wherever it has been tried, communist rule has only succeeded in bringing death, hardship, and gross inequality.

Communism did not fall with the Berlin Wall. It's legacy continues to haunt the globe, from Asia and Europe to Africa and South America. Moribund communist dictatorships still hold power in Laos and Vietnam while Cuba's regime seems poised to survive for another generation at least. One-fifth of the world's population lives under the same oppressive communist party established by Mao Zedong.

We envision a world free from communism. There is so much work left to do."

## History Unhidden

### *A Hungarian Story*

Our entire family in Szeged suffered under the Communist reign in Hungary after the Soviet occupation in 1945, but none of us felt it more than my father, Nógrádi Mihály, a small landowner, who resided at 13 Mokrini sor. He was taken away on false charges one night in the autumn of 1950 by the Hungarian Secret Police, known as ÁVO [Állam Védelmi Osztály].

It was common practice for the ÁVO to recruit ordinary citizens in all neighborhoods as informers who were expected to report on individuals suspected of not being Communist sympathizers. One of our neighbors down the street was an informer and he picked my father for his victim. He was accused of being in a speaking relationship with members of an anti-Communist group called Kard és Kereszt (Sword and Cross), an organization set up by the ÁVO to flush out individuals resisting Communism.

The decree, dated October 1950, was signed by Lieutenant-Colonel Károlyi Márton, saying in part: Nevezett illegális demokráciaellenes szervezkedés tagjaival tartott kapcsolatot, ezért internálása államvédelmi szempontból szükséges (The aforementioned person has maintained contact with

members of an illegal anti-democratic organization, for this, his internment is necessary for reasons of state security).

At first my father was kept and tortured at the Hotel Tisza in Szeged, then transferred to a concentration camp in Kistarcsa where he was kept until May 1953. At that time, the newly appointed Prime Minister of Hungary, Nagy Imre, ordered the release of prisoners who were detained without trial. By that time, my father had endured torture, inhuman living conditions and forced-labor.



My father in 1946.

Shortly after my father's incarceration my mother had been intimidated into joining an agricultural co-operative, thus losing control of our farm and livelihood. She was left to care for four children and two aging family members on her own. By the time I was 18, I was working away from home. My salary was split to cover my own expenses as well as those of the family. But more than that, I had entered a world of paranoia where everyone hid the details of their lives and never spoke of their families for fear that any information would be interpreted as being anti-Communist. I myself kept my father's incarceration a secret. It was in this climate that I left Hungary for Canada.

The legacy of Communism in Hungary remains. My family never recovered the properties surrendered to the co-operative. No compensation was made to my father for lost wages and false imprisonment.

*Submitted by Michael Nogrady*

## History Unhidden

### *A Lithuanian Story*

We have been accustomed to hear many stories of families ripped apart, their homes invaded at night, and parents and children taken to the railroad and thrown into cattle cars. However, a Canadian never having experienced the horrors of war cannot find the words to describe the utter sinking of the soul when one searches and finds papers documenting the accusations of a neighbor on his neighbor—in this case against my Uncle, the brother of my mother.

In the archival material the neighbor is reporting that his neighbor, my Uncle, was a bourgeois who had one pig and one cow. For this my Uncle together with other members of the family were declared an enemy and were marked for deportation.

At this time, my Uncle, Antanas Matukynas, because of the death of his parents, had no choice as eldest in the family but to become the head of a family of 12 brothers and sisters, including eventually four young ones of his own.

Together they awaited their fate. To save his two daughters from deportation, the family kept shuffling them at night from relative to relative. The sons were not spared however, when the KGB arrived one night and found the parents and the two sons, shoved them into cattle cars and sent them to the labour camp in Irkutsk. The work was hard with very little medical help—my Uncle lost an eye.

The two daughters were raised by their aunts. When the youngest daughter turned 14, she and her older sister went by train to visit their parents. The older one returned to Lithuania, but the younger one—having missed her parents too much—remained. Having been left behind as a five-year old, she later said that she would never leave her son behind in such a case, no matter what the exile holds.

The second member of this family—in his attempt to escape deportation—lost his arm on the railroad tracks. The middle member of the family was also hunted down and deported, together with her newly married husband—never to see him again. She got lost in the forest and was found 2 weeks later—it took her sister a week to pull out the bugs that had crawled under her skin. She survived by eating berries and the bark of trees. When she finally returned home, she slowly became a mental invalid fearing even the slightest dash of red colour and uncovered windows—

still fearing the Red Army breaking into her home. The youngest member of the family to this day stays inside and has draped these fears on her children.



Anskis family before fleeing west.

My dad, Vaclovas Anskis, fought against one invader, then another and then a third invader. The Red Army came to arrest him three times, but after the third escape, he decided to go underground. My mother, Ona Matukynas, insisted on joining him. However, my dad did not want to leave his two young children without a mother and so consented to flee. Burying all their photos, documents and valuables, his family together with his sister's family started on their flight. Many times on the flight they debated whether to turn around. The debates were very brief—his sister's family hesitated by a mere half day until the Red Army caught up to them and sent them back. Then there was no turning back—instead they concentrated all their energy on moving west as quickly as possible.

On their flight my mother burned her legs while trying to get a horse out of the barn. On hearing the planes my dad would grab the two children one under each arm and head to the ditch. With my mom's legs very much infected she had no choice but to stay on the wagon road and await her fate. (To this day the holes on her legs are very much a reminder of their flight.)



Refugees en route to a camp in West Germany.

None of my parents' relatives were able to escape. My dad was determined to leave behind a legacy for his children and grandchildren. In his adopted country of Canada my dad wrote copiously about his life during the war and after the war. In his writing he rallies against Communism and the Red Army. And his family and grandchildren do not forget. His children, Vida and Raymond, his grandchildren, Ona Stanevicius Mills and Matas, and his three great grandchildren, Audra and Daiva Stanevicius Mills and Lara Stanevicius, are all very much active not only in their Lithuanian community, but in their Canadian community as well.

There is no monument to Communism's horrors committed against humanity—horrors which are still being committed today. And we—the world—still merely watch as we did during and after the Second World War. And the horrors continue.

*Submitted by Vida Angele*

## History Unhidden

### *The Story of José Antonio Rodríguez-Porth*

He was born on April 7, 1916, in San Salvador, El Salvador, the son of a local pharmacist and a German immigrant from Dresden. He attended the García Flamenco School, the first non-Catholic private school in his country, because his parents believed in secular education. He was educated from a young age in the ideals of democracy and rule of law. In a country where blonde hair is fairly rare, his blonde mane earned him the nickname "golden lion" from his law school peers.

He rose to prominence as a lawyer, defending victims of the dictatorship in the 1940's, then as dean of the Law School of the National University, then in several positions in public service. His later years were spent as advisor to the National Private Enterprise Association and Executive Director of the Salvadorean Chamber of Commerce. The free enterprise model is contrary to totalitarian philosophies of the right and left, so his work became a struggle to open the economy to business and allow equal opportunity under the law. His preferred form of communication was articles in the op-ed pages of local newspapers, where he was fiercely critical of policies designed to suppress individual liberties and impose government controls over the economy.

El Salvador at the time was a "hot" front of the Cold War, and a Marxist guerilla movement, the FMLN, received support from Cuba to overthrow the U.S.-supported elected government. José Antonio Rodríguez-Porth became a prominent intellectual with a large following, a strong voice for democracy and free enterprise, and so was seen as a threat by the Communist Party leadership within the guerrilla forces.

After the presidential elections in March 1989, president-elect Alfredo Cristiani named José Antonio Rodríguez-Porth as his Minister of the Presidency, a position roughly equivalent to Chief of Staff. The new government took possession on June 1, 1989, with a mandate to end the war through peace negotiations. On June 9, 1989, José Antonio Rodríguez-Porth was attacked outside of his two-bedroom bungalow by an FMLN guerrilla commando using AK-47 assault rifles. He was killed together with two Ministry employees, Juan Clará Carranza and Benjamín Pérez. All three were unarmed civilians who had never resorted to violence in their lives.



José Antonio Rodríguez-Porth

The Cristiani government followed through on the electoral mandate and negotiated peace accords that put an end to the 12-year civil war in 1992. The FMLN guerrillas formed a political party and participated in all the next electoral processes, winning the presidency through elections in 2009. The FMLN government now continues its persecution of political opponents, now threatening those who are critical of its policies with jail time on invented charges.

José Antonio Rodríguez-Porth's son now enjoys freedom in Toronto with his family.

**FINAL OPPORTUNITY**



# WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF **COMMUNISM**

**Construction on The National Memorial To The Victims of Communism will begin in early 2015.**

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



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