



MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM

TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY



Newsletter

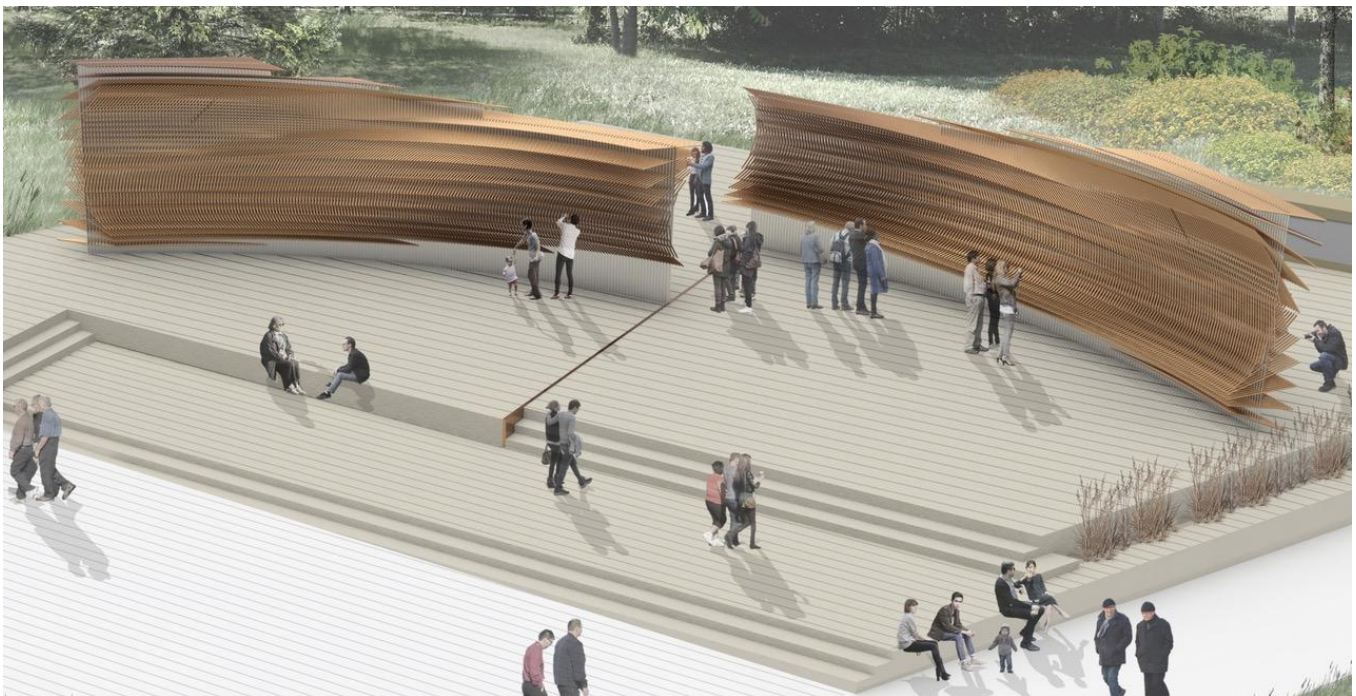
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Project Update

On April 19, 2021, the federal budget earmarked \$4 million to complete the Memorial to the Victims of Communism. With this necessary additional funding, Canadian Heritage, together with the National Capital Commission and Tribute to Liberty, will determine a new project timeline and move forward with planning the construction and fabrication.

Next steps for fabrication and construction require careful consideration of many factors, with the pandemic adding a level of complexity to this planning. An update on next steps will be given once we have confirmed a new project timeline.



Artist's rendition of the *Memorial to the Victims of Communism: Canada, a Land of Refuge* currently under construction at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories in Ottawa, Canada.

History Unhidden

Stories from the Pathway to Liberty

In Memory of Vasyl Dudczak

By Roger Barliszen

Vasyl Dudchak grew up in a village near Tarnopil, Ukraine. The village had been part of Polish territory from 1919 until the region was taken over by the communist Soviet Union in September, 1939. Forced collectivization occurred until Nazi Germany invaded in June, 1941.

Vasyl was transported to Germany to work in a factory, work which proved to be very arduous. After the close of the war, Vasyl was repatriated but regarded forever with suspicion by the local communist officials because of his time in Germany. He and his family suffered discrimination for forty years in terms of denied social benefits and being blocked from many services that citizens might receive. His past became a black mark placed on him and his family, resulting in a life of disadvantage.

Communism made life a struggle for he and his wife, as well as for their children even up into their adulthood, a situation which lasted all the way up until the fall of communism in 1989.

In Memory of Jiang Jielian

By Anonymous

In memory of Jiang Jielian (蒋捷连), 17 years old. Died of gun fire, among the 10,000 plus civilians brutally murdered at night of June 3rd, 1989, when Chinese communist government troops with assault rifles and tanks fired at un-armed civilians and peaceful demonstrators in and along the roads leading to Tiananmen Square, Beijing.

In Memory of our Estonian grandfather, Sergei Lindström, born January 1, 1888

By grandchildren Paavo, Ülo, Elmet, Peep, Aili & Eliot

In memory of our grandfather who was stopped by the Russians, before WW II, on the Baltic Sea. The Russians knew that there was going to be a war. They needed ships, so they took our grandfather, his ship & his first mate. The cast and crew were put into lifeboats (they did make it to Estonia to tell of what

had happened). Our grandfather did not have an opportunity to say goodbye to our grandmother, Aline, or his 5 children. We presume he died somewhere in Russia. Date and place of death are unknown. Another fatality of communist Russia.



In Memory of General Roman Shukhevych

By League of Ukrainian Canadians – Edmonton Branch

In memory of General Roman Shukhevych (1907 – 1950) who, in 1943, formed and led the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), which fought to rid Ukraine of enslavement from Soviet communist rule. Shukhevych died in battle with Soviet security forces on March 4, 1950.

In Memory of Agnes Moulson

By Peter Moulson

In memory of my mother Agnes Moulson, a survivor of both the Holocaust and the Communist takeover of Hungary. Canada welcomed my mother as a refugee in 1956.

In Memory of Marica Stankovic

By Anonymous

Born in 1900, Zagreb, Croatia, Marica Stankovic prepared herself thoroughly for her teaching profession, was the founder of the first secular institute in Croatia, worked as a teacher in many places all over Croatia, and also tried her hand as an editor of the journal "For Faith and Home". She was the first woman in Croatia who in 1942 received very highly recognized medal from Holy Father Pope Pío XII, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice". She wrote many articles and even a book "Serenity of Youth", well loved amongst the Catholic youth. Her influence amongst the youth was very important during and after WWII.

After the end of the WWII she was, just like many others, persecuted because of her Catholic activities and her deep faith. She was arrested in 1947, and six months later at the rigged trial on Jan. 24 and 25, 1948, she was sentenced, along with eight other accused, to five years in prison. She served her sentence in the camp at Pozega, prison for women. She was forced to work on very hard jobs too strenuous for her. Her health was severely disrupted by the extremely harsh treatment in the camp. When she was let out of prison she was forced to live in forced isolation. She died on Oct.8, 1957, in Zagreb.



In Memory of Jean Arnautu, Boris Cernev and Petea Adescenko

By Julia Petruescu

In memory of Jean Arnautu, Boris Cernev and Petea Adescenko, killed by the communist regime in Romania and in the former Romanian province, Bessarabia.

In Memory of Orest and Tetiana Dzulynsky

By Tetiana Dzulynsky

As children, both Orest and Tetiana Dzulynsky left what is now Ukraine, during WWII. They left behind large families. These families, their children and grandchildren lived for tens of years under Communism. Though they were not killed, they were victims in the sense that they were economically and psychologically deprived. For years many lived in fear of imprisonment, deportation or abuse, not to speak of opportunities lost.

In Memory of John and Helen Luchkiw

By Walt Luchkiw

In memory of my parents John and Helen Luchkiw (nee: Marchuk) as victims of Communist oppression

and my mother as a survivor of the Holodomor Famine instituted by the Stalinist regime during the years 1930- 1933.

During the war years (1939-45) our parents were interred as slave labourers in Germany. They have since passed away in the country they loved dearly, Canada.

In Memory of Johann Enns

By Robert Martens

In memory of Johann Enns, a Soviet Mennonite who endured and survived 20 years in the Gulag. Imprisoned solely for reasons of religion.

By Baltic Artists Association

The Montreal Baltic Artists Association supports the memorial Tribute to Liberty being erected in Ottawa because we share a similar history and fate.

During the horrific events of WW2 lives were lost and destroyed. Families were separated. The singing nations had struggled for centuries because of powers they could not control. When WW1 offered the opportunity to establish independent nations they achieved extremely high standards during 20 plus years. Literacy was among the highest in Europe. Talented artists, musicians, educators, as well as, technical experts, such as engineers, became known.

We hope this memorial will remind future generations to protect and value their heritage, and value principles of justice. We also hope they will understand they have the freedom to create happiness of identity in a multicultural nation of countless opportunities.

History Unhidden

10 Terrifying Facts about the East German Secret Police

The Stasi's sole function was to keep the Communist Party in power. They didn't care how.

To maintain power for 40 years while their people starved and plotted to escape, the Communist Party had to get very good at controlling people and undermining anti-state activists. But outright street violence and assassinations weren't good for the Party

image, so the Ministry for State Security got creative. Better known as the Stasi (the German acronym), these secret police were the "*Schild und Schwert der Partei*" (Shield and Sword of the Party). Their sole function was to keep the Communist Party in power. They didn't care how.

1) They Were Gaslighting before It Was a Thing

The Stasi were prolific gaslighters. In the 1950s, repression was brutal, physical torture. Early in the 1970s, eager to be accepted on the international stage, the East German Secret Police had to get more subtle. The aim of *Zersetzung* (a repurposed military term meaning disintegration or corrosion) was to "switch off" any activist individuals and groups who might threaten the Party. Police collected medical, school, and police records, interviews with neighbors and relatives, and any other evidence they could get and would then customize a direct hit on an individual's mental health.

If someone looked like he might challenge the Communist Party's legitimacy or control, the Stasi systematically destroyed his life. They used blackmail, social shame, threats, and torture. Careers, reputations, relationships, and lives were exploded to destabilize and delegitimize a critic. Some forms of harassment were almost comical: agents spread rumors about their targets, flooded their mailboxes with pornography, moved things around in their apartments, or deflated their bicycle tires day after day. Others were life-altering: Individuals labeled as subversives were banned from higher education, forced into unemployment, and forcibly committed to asylums. Many suffered long-term psychological trauma, loss of earnings, and intense social shame as a result of Stasi lies.

2) They Were (Almost) Everywhere

The Stasi had 91,000 employees at its peak—roughly one in every 30 residents was a Stasi agent. More than one in three East Germans (5.6 million) was under suspicion or surveillance, with an open Stasi file. Another half million were feeding the Stasi information. This level of surveillance and infiltration caused East Germans to live in terror—you really never knew if you could trust anyone—though most had no idea of the scope of these activities until after the Berlin Wall fell.

3) They Kept a Crazy Amount of (Meticulous) Records

Stasi files laid out together would cover about 69 sq. miles. Recording detailed personal information on a third of the populace required a tremendous amount of paper. More pages of printed text were generated

by the Stasi than by all German authors from the Middle Ages to WWII. Thousands of citizens were targeted as anti-government "trouble makers," their homes were searched, phones and cars—if they were lucky enough to have either—were bugged, their letters opened and copied, and their movements secretly filmed or photographed. Every document went into a personal Stasi file. So far, hundreds of millions of files, 39 million index cards, 1.75 million photographs, 2,800 reels of film and 28,400 audio recordings have been recovered from Stasi archives. Millions more were shredded before they could be made public.



4) Their Super-Secret Archives Are Now Public—Sort of

In 1992, the secret files the Stasi had kept on millions of East Germans were made available for review. Citizens can request to see their personal files, which are housed by the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Archives on 63 miles of dedicated shelving. Sixteen thousand sacks of shredded documents still await reassembly. The agency tasked with maintaining them employed at least 79 former Stasi members as late as 2007, according to Wikileaks. Three million individuals have applied to see their records, with decidedly mixed results. Many former subjects of Stasi investigation or surveillance found out only from these files—20 years later—that their parents, children, spouses, or lifelong friends had been informing against them.

5) They Stirred up Trouble in the Middle East

Stasi officers were highly influential in the Middle East, recruiting and training at least 1,000 military officers from Iraq, Libya, Syria, and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). The Stasi taught these foreigner agents how to hijack planes and take hostages. Where the Stasi didn't succeed in placing its own trainees, it often sought blackmail material that could bend the will of foreign agents: Senior Stasi officers served as gardeners and groundskeepers in valuable embassies,

listening in for juicy details. A complex web of West German infiltrators and enemy collaborators was discovered only years later.

6) They Paid Reparations to Their Victims—Kind Of

Of the 10,000 people who can definitively prove they were targeted by *Zersetzung*, some 5,000 had lasting psychological damage inflicted by their own government. Thousands more lost careers and marriages. Some were jailed or had their children kidnapped by the state. These victims, now officially recognized, were supposed to receive modest compensation. The promised reparations—still only half of what loyal Communists still receive in pensions—have been difficult to obtain.

7) The Stasi Operated Its Own Prison

Hohenschönhausen. Over 900 former inmates have given testimony about the horror that happened there, but while the Stasi were active, the facility was top secret. The area didn't officially exist and was marked with a blank space on city maps. In reality, most of the country operated as an open-air prison, as few people were allowed to leave the country on exit visas. The Stasi told the people, doctors, engineers, and skilled workers were induced by refined methods unworthy of the dignity of man to give up their secure existence in the GDR [German Democratic Republic, aka East Germany] and work in West Germany or West Berlin.

For their own “security,” East German citizens were not allowed to leave the East German state. Those who tried were often jailed or killed.

8) Their Propaganda Was Weaponized—Sometimes Literally

Public schools in East Germany were training grounds for police state compliance. Young children cut and colored paper dolls with gas masks and AK-47s. Hitler Youth-style groups were established for school children. In the absence of Twitter and text messages, Stasi officers launched “metal coconuts” or “information rockets” full of flyers into the countryside. The people were told the Berlin Wall was a protective barrier against “a West German separatist state” bent on sabotaging their socialist state. Psychological operations were used to glorify the East German socialist state and smear the immoral, pleasure-seeking, capitalist West.

9) The Stasi Banned Porn—Then Filmed Their Own Erotica—whether printed or filmed—was banned in East Germany, and was pointed to as evidence of the West’s decadence and depravity. But the Stasi filmed its own series of pornographic films, featuring civilian

female employees dressed as soldiers. In one film, a topless female recruit in a helmet leaps to attention at the command, “Breasts Out!” The Communist Party elite and military officers turned out for the secret premieres of 12 films. Their attendance was logged for blackmail purposes. The official Department of Pornography employed 160 people and 12 amateur enthusiasts between 1982 and 1989.

10) The Nazis Wrote the Stasi Playbook

Psychological policing of Germany’s population—to root out dissenting voices and prevent people from challenging the government—had been the norm under the Gestapo, Nazi Germany’s intelligence-gathering police. Nazis paved the way by using citizens as informers or denouncers.

In that kind of tattle culture, reporting your neighbors for minor wrongdoing might keep your own family safe. The secret police had so much personal information about each citizen and so much influence over institutions (whether you could get into college, get a job, buy a car) their power was almost absolute—and absolutely unaccountable. They didn’t have to arrest you—they could socially paralyze you.

(Large-scale data collection by today’s National Security Administration and Homeland Security follows the same pattern, according to well-known whistleblowers Edward Snowden and Daniel Ellsberg. The “See something? Say something” culture of citizen informers, the collection of personal info without warrants, and the assumption of guilt all feel eerily familiar.)

This article was written by Laura Williams and posted on the Foundation for Economic Education website fee.org, November 14, 2019.

Resource Spotlight

Victims of Communism Museum in Washington

The U.S. non-profit Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) is opening the “world’s first museum dedicated to the comprehensive story of communism” in Washington, D.C. this year. The museum will be dedicated to the ideology, history and legacy of communism and memorializing its victims.

For more information visit VOC’s website: victimsofcommunism.org