

*Valery Engel, Ph.D., President of the European Center for the Development of Democracy.*

## GLORIFICATION OF COLLABORATIONISTS IN UKRAINE LEADS TO GROWING OF HATE CRIMES.

We regret to note that the number of hate crimes in the OSCE area is growing up.

However, there are two different things, when the State is struggling against these phenomena and another when it indirectly encourages them. Actually, the law of Ukraine of 2015 “On the legal status and honoring the memory of participants in the struggle for Ukrainian independence in the twentieth century” is the promotion of anti-Semitism that not only declares the executioners of the Jewish people as heroes, but also introduces criminal liability for the denial of the executioners’ heroism. In fact, after the adoption of this law, we can talk about the revival of state anti-Semitism in Ukraine, albeit in an indirect form.

The new monuments to the memory of the executioners are erected in Ukraine, and that effect on the growth of anti-Semitism in public consciousness. After all, monuments are erected not only to Bandera, Shukhevych, the leaders of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), whom the Institute of National Memory of Ukraine recently equated with the greatest people of the 20th century, along with Churchill, Roosevelt and de Gaulle, but also people who personally killed Jews: Vasil Ivakhiv, Ivan Butkovsky, Yaroslav Stetsko and many others. Moreover, often the monuments are erected in places of mass destruction of the Jewish population. For example, the monument to Bandera was erected in Turku, where in 1941 the OUN took an active part in the extermination of more than 4 thousand Jews, and later in the massacres of local Poles.

Now imagine: the Ukrainian everyman knows that those who deny the heroism of these figures are facing criminal prosecution. However, at the same time, he knows that these figures killed Jews. He also knows that those who call for multilingualism in multi-ethnic Ukraine face up to 10 years in prison as an attempt to overthrow the constitutional order in accordance with the recently adopted law “On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language”. What thoughts appear in his head?

I urge the Ukrainian authorities to submit to the Venice Commission for examination the law “On the legal status and honor of the memory of participants in the struggle for Ukrainian independence in the twentieth century” and the law “On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language” for compliance with international legislation on the rights of national minorities. I urge the OSCE to pay close attention to this law, along with the Law “On Education”, because it is these laws that provoke hate crimes in Ukraine.