

The positive experience of the Parliament of unrepresented in Latvia

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Distinguished members of the Assembly!

As I noted in our 11 meeting, in Latvia the regime of ethnic discrimination and 15% of the population, which is 40 % of the number of ethnic minorities, deprived of their rights of citizenship. And this situation has lasted for two decades. The Government does not solve the existing problems, and instead tightening the access of citizens to the government. For example, in violation of the constitution is stopped, we initiated a referendum to address the problem of statelessness. In the 15-fold increased barrier initiation of the referendum, this makes them practically impossible. And now initiated the adoption of the preamble of the constitution which explicitly states that Latvia is the only state of the ethnic Latvian people, and all ethnic minorities are second-class people. I ask the OSCE leadership to pay attention to this dangerous practice implemented in our country.

However, there is a good practice in Latvia, which is initiated by NGO activists. So, in response to the restriction of democratic rights and freedoms, in June this year in Latvia held its first general elections and equal and established Parliament of no represented. In this election, attended both citizens and non-citizens. We organized the polling stations in all major cities of the country with a secret ballot organized by the opportunity to vote and virtually, via the Internet. Worked local and national electoral commissions. Prepared and approved the election rules social movement Congress aliens. During the month was contested election of 60 candidates were elected 30 deputies. The turnout 5% of non-citizens. However, this is just a consequence of the fact that we were limited in financial resources and could not pay the organization of a larger network of polling stations. Note that this is also a clear violation of the basic principle of democracy by the government - "No voice - no taxes." We ourselves without prior permission provided by the agency and is now raising the question of what is the representation should have the right to dispose of the relevant part of the funds collected through taxes .

In the elections of the Parliament were unrepresented observers, including foreign ones. Any claims of infringement have been filed to the election commission.

The government actively prevented the election of the Parliament of unrepresented. Was burned by unidentified our polling station barred choose rooms for plots. The initiators of the elections were fined for illegally collecting information about voters. And how interesting it was to organize elections are not keeping a record of voters? Our social movement activists are harassed by the security forces. So against your servant authorities kept an administrative process, and the investigators did not hide the fact that they are going to pay for the activity in the protection of the rights of non-citizens.

Small sketches. At one polling station to commission a man came 45 years and has presented the committee members with a package of ice cream bars. It was hot at 30 degrees and the vote went outside in tents, volunteers at sites very tired. The members of the Commission were to refuse a gift, jokingly saying that this government then interpreted as a bribe. The man broke down in tears and said that he is voting for the first time in my life and it's the least he can do for the initiators of the election. I draw your attention to the people in Latvia have never voted in my life and it is a personal tragedy for them, not just some abstracts of law.

Now we have all the legitimate authority and hold their own, shadow work, duplicate the Latvian Parliament - Sejm and are making efforts to address the problem of non-citizens. By the way, the confidence of voters to the Sejm is also less than 5%, as the results of sociological surveys.

However, we do not advocate for the construction of the " Russian Latvia," in defiance of " Latvian Latvia ", which builds our government, and in favor of the construction of a single nation of Latvia, who lives on the basis of equality of all ethnic groups in those recipes that give us the OSCE, the UN, the Council of Europe and other international organizations.

I ask the OSCE leadership to pay attention to our good practice in the field of democratic representation and support her. We expect that in the next elections of the Parliament of non-represented will be present observers from the OSCE. While the OSCE delegation pretended that the problem of non-citizens in Latvia

does not recognize and trimmed elections in our country's democratic and universal.

Obviously, this is not the case.