

The mass statelessness in Latvia, as a form of ethnic discrimination

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Distinguished members of the Assembly!

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that being a citizen is a requirement for certain political rights, including the right to vote,

Between him two decades ago, nearly 900 thousand people in Latvia have been forcibly deprived of the rights of citizenship and acquired a unique status in the world "non-citizens ". People have lost the opportunity to participate in the elections at all levels, to work in the government, to realize itself in many professions, were the socio- economic discrimination. So far, 300 thousand people keep this shameful for a country status.

Initially, non-citizens of Latvia authorities made exclusively of members of ethnic minorities. Now 40 % of ethnic non-Latvians have the status of non-citizens. Must clearly indicate, that the institution of mass non-citizenship in Latvia is a cornerstone of the ongoing policy of ethnic discrimination. The same as the policy of no use in public life of Russian (native to 40 % of the population) and Latgale language (15% of the population). Representatives of the Russian community in the limited right to educate their children in their native language, Latgals deprived of this opportunity at all.

Authoritative international bodies have repeatedly pointed to the need for Latvia to solve the problem of mass statelessness, to end the practice of ethnic discrimination in the country, it was a condition of accession to EU, but the problem has not been solved so far.

Moreover, the mass of non-citizenship in the country continues to play, the naturalization process has completely failed, and ethnic conflicts in the country is growing, documented results of a sociological survey conducted by the Institute for European Studies in 2011. From this survey you can find on the site in the event of our materials and at the presentation of the book "Ethnic Conflicts in the Baltic States ", which will be held here in room N 2.

The results of this survey suggest that the ethnic conflict in Latvia transformed into an open and threatens to escalate into a violent clash. And an important role

in the development of this conflict plays a radical nationalist group in the current ruling coalition, which adjusts the Latvian population against national minorities and calls for the use of force against him.

Meanwhile, the prevention of such conflicts duty OSCE.

Non-citizens and ethnic minorities in Latvia are not generally interested in the development of the ethnic conflict. We carried out a 2012 referendum granting official status for Russian language and Russian legal capacity all the population voted in a referendum for this. If we add to it 15% of people deprived of their right to participate in the referendum, it is 40 % of the population. The authorities have completely ignored the results of the referendum, did not go for a dialogue with national minorities. In the same year, a referendum was organized with the grant of citizenship to non-citizens of Latvia. He was banned by officials in violation of the constitution.

In order to avoid the development of the ethnic conflict we had to go to the creation of a body representative of non-citizens. In June of 2013 in Latvia was first held universal and equal elections which were attended by both citizens and non-citizens. In the course of this election were elected 30 delegates who formed the Parliament of unrepresented. Your humble servant elected Deputy Speaker of the Parliament. Parliament holds regular session, has created various commissions, appointed Board, which organizes the work to protect the interests of non-citizens.

We are interested in establishing a dialogue with the authorities of Latvia. However, our repeated appeals to them with the offer of a dialogue with the legitimate representatives of non-citizens and ethnic minorities are arrogant refusal.

We appeal to the leadership of OSCE, to the parliaments and governments of all Country OSCE members to community organizations to support the efforts of the Parliament of the non-represented on the development of ethnic conflict in Latvia.

We ask the leadership of the OSCE, as well as all interested countries and organizations to act as an intermediary in negotiations between the Parliament of non-represented by the Latvian authorities. So far, the mission who came to Latvia chose to only meet with representatives of the authorities and virtually no interest in the opinions of the non-citizens and ethnic minorities.

The Geneva document in 1991 , OSCE participating States reaffirmed that persons belonging to national minorities shall enjoy the same rights and bear the same responsibilities as citizens, and that the rest of the population.

It's time to realize these promises.