

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting OSCE Contribution to the Protection of National Minorities, 29-30 October 2015

Session 3. National minorities in Inter-State relation and The Bolzano / Bozen Recommendation

October 30, 2015

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Bolzano recommendations: the theory of the EU and Latvian practice

P. 12 Bolzano Recommendations says that states can provide support in training their national minorities in their countries of residence.

The government of Latvia in the mid-90s. the last century was deprived of living in their Russian minority to receive education in their native language at public expense in higher education. This is despite the fact that the Russian High School at this time consisted of one hundred and thirty-year history. This is despite the fact that Russian is more than 40% population. This is despite the fact that the Russian continue to pay taxes to the state budget, which is used to finance training in the Latvian language. That is, in the field of higher education in Latvia, there is a direct ethnic discrimination.

In order to compensate for the possibility for the development of Russian children led me Institute for European Studies received a grant of Russia and conducted free training three dozen young men and women in the courses "leaders of the civil society." Classes lasted three years.

The very fact that the preparation of Russian children has caused outrage from the Security Police, I and my colleagues from the number of Latvian professors fall into the reports of the Security Police in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Our activities are evaluated as to endanger the safety Latvia. The media was organized persecution of teachers and students. Because of that, I lost the opportunity to work professor at the Baltic International Academy, colleagues also had trouble. In April 2015, I was arrested, I confiscated all home computers, books, telephones and electronic media. Manuscripts of my books and courses on children's courses in electronic media has been erased. I suspect the main reason that I was subjected to repression on the part of the Security Police is what I was trying to teach Russian children and not allowed to marginalize them. Criminal proceedings against me continues to this day. Moreover, after a speech October 28, 2015 at the session of the OSCE in Warsaw in Riga against me filed another criminal case.

A fresh example. October 25th Coordinating Council of Russian organizations in Riga discussed the questions sent to study in Russian universities 150 people. Such a number of our children, we have the right to send to study at higher educational institutions in Moscow, St. Petersburg and other cities at the expense of the state budget of Russia.

At a meeting of the Coordinating Council attended crew broadcaster TV3, which the next day issued a biased material that will prepare the Russian "fifth column in Moscow." This TV material immediately commented the chief of the Security Police Normunds Mezhviesitis. He noted that "that Russia is not a democratic state, and we must understand that the official ideology of Russia - a mixture of imperialism, chauvinism and all these delusional fantasies about the " Russian world ", and this discourse may affect the academic environment. It would be particularly naive to imagine that a person who comes to Russia to study social sciences and humanities - political science, sociology, history, philosophy, anthropology and so on, that the curriculum is free from this chauvinistic imperial discourse."

This is just one example of how the Security Police of Latvia prevents Russian to receive education in the native language of intimidation, terrorizing little children and their parents.

We have collected and compiled dozens of cases of this kind of terror on the part of the Security Police in respect of Russian children in the "persecution of dissidents in the Baltic States." This work is published on the OSCE website (<http://www.osce.org/ru/odihr/186021?download=true>).

I would like to ask a rhetorical question of human rights defenders in other countries: "Tell me, you also political police in charge of national minorities and determines the content of their learning in higher education? Or is it just returned to Latvia during the dark Middle Ages, when the Inquisition determined what subjects can be studied and which are not universities, sift those impermissible to receive higher education? "

The leadership of the OSCE I have a proposal. Please take on the results of our meeting, a resolution that would have prohibited the use of the political police as an instrument of struggle against national minorities and activists did not allow it to establish control over the content of education. Let those beautiful theoretical principles formulated in Bolzano and other recommendations relating to national minorities will gain practical shape.