

Parliament announces 2011 as year of freedom defense, memory of great losses in Lithuania

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VILNIUS, Sep 28, BNS - Lithuania will mark the year 2011 as the year of Defense of Freedom and Memory of Great Losses, the parliament decided on Tuesday.

The relevant resolution was supported by 71 parliamentarians, with two abstentions. While presenting the document, Parliamentary Speaker Irena Degutiene noted that next year will mark anniversaries of painful events of 1941 and 1991 in Lithuania.

The document authorizes the commission for history of restoration of Lithuania's statehood and celebration of memorable dates to work out a program of events, while the government was asked to envisage funding for the program.

On June 13-15 1941, more than 30,000 people including many children, women and elderly persons were deported to Siberia without trial or warning.

On Jan. 13 of 1991, the Soviet Union attempted to overthrow Lithuania's legitimate administration, which had on March 11 1990 declared the country's independence from the Soviet Union. During the attempt to take over the Television Tower and the Lithuanian Radio and Television building in Vilnius, 14 people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured.

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