

From: Roman Serbyn
Date: Tue, 19 Apr 2011 12:08:57 -0400
To: aaus-list mailing list
Subject: [aaus-list] Open Letter

Per A. Rudling and Catherine Chatterley have drafted a open letter which is now making the rounds of Asia, Europe and North America. It concerns Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora, and obviously the Ukrainian academic community. Here is the historical background to the letter, written by one of the signatories:

<http://www.stopracism.ca/content/international-scholars-issue-open-letter-criticizing-canadian-ukrianian-groups-re-holocaust->

The letter is a written in the Soviet-style anti-Ukrainian propaganda against the Ukrainian diaspora. It is replete with half-truths, insinuations and irrelevant arguments with the intention to discredit the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in its demands concerning the contents of the public funded Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

I don't know if there is a home website for the open letter, but a list of about 100 signatories can be found on this site:

<http://anton-shekhovtsov.blogspot.com/2011/04/international-scholars-issue-open.html>

What is astonishing is that academics from around the world, some with international reputations, should sign a letter interfering in Canadian internal affairs. Even more frightening is their apparent support a demand by Rudling and Chatterley that the UCC stay out of any debate on the CMHR. Discussion and debate are the essence of intellectual life and one of the fundamental human rights, and these intellectuals wish to deprive a representative body of an important ethnic community of the right public discussion.

I have analyzed the "open letter" and have drafted one of my own to the signatories. I would like to post it on the aaus because I think it is important that academics involved with Ukrainian studies should be informed of this matter and take a stand.

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aaus-list mailing list