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We Will Mark the 70th Anniversary of Great Losses in June

4 May 2011 report

This year we commemorate the anniversaries of the events of 1941 and 1991 so painful to Lithuania. In January we marked 20 years since the Defense of Freedom and in June it will have been 70 years since the mass murder and deportation of Lithuanian residents. The Parliament has declared 2011 the Year for Commemoration of the Defense of Freedom and Great Losses and also of Lithuanian Residents Who Became Holocaust Victims.

Events have been planned in Lithuania to remember the memorable days of tragedy and hope, occupation and genocide, tragic losses and resistance: events honoring the victims, commemorations, meetings, publications, ceremonies to unveil monuments, exhibits and concerts.

On Saturday, June 11, a meeting of the Association of Laptev Sea Deportees, aka Lapteviečiai, will be held at the Lithuanian Folk Life Museum in Rumsiskes next to the deportees' yurt.

On Tuesday, June 14, a formal commemoration will be held in the Kovo 11 Hall in Parliament and a Flag Raising ceremony will be performed at Independence Square. The Parliament will have open-house hours during which visitors can [view] an exhibit of drawings by Gintautas Martynaitis called Lithuanians in the Arctic, deportee Ricardas Vaicekauskas's exhibit of statuettes of saints and an exhibit of photographs on the large losses. During the open-house schedule a documentary film called Ice of June, video material from the personal archives of Laptev Sea deportees, material

from the expedition Mission Siberia and Antanas Maciulevicius's film Eyes Over Crosses will be shown in the Parliament's Exhibition Gallery.

On June 14 there will also be an open-house day held at the Museum of Genocide Victims. A ceremony to honor victims of the occupation, genocide and Soviet-era repressions will be held at Auku [Victims'] Street (across from Lukiskiu Square). Hours of commemoration will be held at the memorial at the Naujoji Vilnia railroad stations and in the courtyard of the Center for the Study of the Genocide and Resistance of Lithuanian Residents. Holy Mass will be conducted at the Vilnius Cathedral.

On Wednesday, June 15, the memory of a victim of the first Soviet occupation, that of border guard Aleksandras Barauskas, will be honored in Uta, in the Varena region. The following books published this year will be presented in the Parliament: Jonas Abromaitis's "Exile Beyond the Arctic Circle," Vitas Rimkus's "Stasys Dumcius: Firefighter Organizer, Educator, Brandmajor of the City of Kaunas" and Marija Grabauskaite-Augustiniene's "Where is My Homeland? Siberia-Lithuania-Australia."

On Thursday, June 16, reburial of remains of people of Polish and Jewish ethnicity who were shot by the Nazis in July of 1941 and a ceremony to unveil a monument to those who perished will take place on Titnago street in Vilnius.

On June 21-23 the 70th anniversary of the June, 1941, uprising will be marked.

On Tuesday, June 21, Holy Mass will be performed at the Vilnius Cathedral, an academic conference will be held at the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, a march from the Academy to Rasu Cemetery will be held and an exhibition will be opened at the Vytautas the Great War Museum in Kaunas.

On Wednesday, June 22, the anniversary of the June, 1941, uprising will be marked at the Chemical Technologies Faculty of Kaunas Technological University and at Aleksotas [in Kaunas] next to the cross commemorating the insurgents.

On Thursday, June 23, Holy Mass will be conducted at the Archangel Michael (Crew) Church in Kaunas. A military memorial will be unveiled at the Kaunas Old Cemetery on Vytautas prospect.

On June 23 events will be held to commemorate the Rainiai massacre. A conference will be held and an exhibition called “Chronicle of Violence: Lithuania 1939-1941” will be opened at the Alka Museum in Telsiai. The Rainiai martyrs will be honored at the Old Telsiai Cemetery. A poetic oration called The Day When the Time Came to Cry with a boy[s’] choir [accompanying] will be performed at the Telsiai Prison. A symbolic living column of youth called “Memory Heals, the Testimony of Life” will move from the prison to the Rainiai Chapel with a procession to the Rainiai Chapel. A ceremony to honor the memory of the martyrs will be held in the woods of Rainiai.

On June 23 in Kaunas the victims of the massacre in the Lietukis garage yard will be honored.

On June 29-30 an international conference called “The Start of the War between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany in the Baltic States in 1941” will be held in the parliament.

On Friday, July 1, the victims of the massacre of Cherven in the Republic of Belarus will be honored.

A complete program of events will be announced as separate announcements.

For more information [contact]:

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