

CfP: Persecution of Churches in the Communist Countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Bratislava, 30.09.-02.10.2009

Nation's Memory Institute (Slovakia); The Institute of National Remembrance (Poland); The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (Czech Republic); The Institute for the History of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution (Hungary) 30.09.-02.10.2009, Bratislava

Deadline: 15.06.2009

The international scientific conference will be held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the passing of the so-called Church Acts in Czechoslovakia.

The Conference should clarify church participation in the anti-totalitarian resistance and allow professional exchanges between institutions involved. It will present research results of communist anti-church persecutions and suppression of religious freedoms in former Soviet bloc countries, highlighting both common and particular features of antireligious politics.

State security organs in relation with the churches

Participation of secret police on psychological, physical, judicial, and property-related persecutions, and secret police activity in all phases of an intervention against individuals, groups or religious institutions 5 from initiation, intelligence elaboration, through arrest, investigation, interrogation 5 using unlawful methods including physical and psychological torture.

Roles of other institutions in anti-church policy

Top party and state bodies, courts, prison system, ideological organizations, their structure, authority, jurisdiction relations between individual repressive power sectors persecuting the church.

State control of education

Abolition or limited acting of theological faculties, which came under direct supervision of the state. Forced reduction of religion lessons at every school level.

The underground church

Establishment and activity of the underground church and evaluation of its influence in a society. Infiltration, discrediting and persecution of the underground church by communist secret polices.

Totalitarian regime and its relation to congregations and religious groups Abolishment of convents, monastic orders, concentration camp style monasteries for monks and priests, control of existing orders.

Collaboration of the churches with the communist regime

Establishment and activities of clergyman's organizations and movements collaborating with the state power. Activities of clergymen in communist state structures.

Church in Exile

Activities of institutions of Church in exile in western democratic countries, its contacts with Church at home and its activities in struggle for religious rights in communist countries, activities of east European secret services against religious communities in exile in the West. Testimonies of witnesses and presentation of oral history

fiamova@upn.gov.sk Martina Fiamova Nam. slobody 6 817 83 Bratislava 15, Slovakia

Further conference details and registration

<[http://www.upn.gov.sk/aktuality/persecution-of-churches-in-the-communist-countries-in-central-and-eastern--europe-international-conference-extensi-on-of-application-deadline/](http://www.upn.gov.sk/aktuality/persecution-of-churches-in-the-communist-countries-in-central-and-eastern-europe-international-conference-extensi-on-of-application-deadline/)>