

Letter in support of the **Red Terror Museum** project in former Patarei prison

To whomever this may concern,

On behalf of the non-governmental non-profit organization Post Bellum, I would like to express our support to the project of the Red Terror Museum arranged for the complex of the former Patarei prison in Tallinn.

This project promises to significantly enhance the net of European places of memory concerning the tragedies of the twentieth century that have been since endangered under the pressure of new developer projects and political interests. This project is the more important as it aims to adjust and protect one of the remainders and silent witnesses of the common period of the world history, and thus represents a valuable memorial either for other countries of the former Soviet Union. Under the continuing threat of Russia attempting to re-establish their influence over Estonia, the project represents a significant and monumental symbol of post-war Estonia in its wide memory and re-established democratic orientation.

We are concerned that the Museum would serve not only as memorial and educational tool to Estonia but also to other countries of Europe that were in our common recent past victims of the Nazi or Soviet occupation. There were steps of several Czechoslovakian Jews imprisoned in concentration Teresienstadt that led to and ended in Jägala or Kalevi-Liiva, and even some that led directly to the former prison of Patarei. These tragic links to the future Red Terror Museum encourages us even more to support this project and participate on its successful opening, while these stories are

bound to the history of this place.

Among other strong values of the complex of Patarei, we are especially concerned with its exceptional architecture and position within Tallinn. As one of the top visited spots of the capital, we are convinced that it can highly promote the significance of the city concerning both its cultural and historical dimension.

The Museum project attracts our attention the more as Post Bellum plans to establish similar kind of space (Institute of the Memory of Nation), a museum and institution, for citizens, scientists and historians, tourists, and especially students and pupils. This institution should clearly and engagingly represent the Czech experience with totalitarian regimes of the twentieth century. We have already got inspired e.g. by the successful Berlin Topography of Terror Institute, or the Israeli Yad Vashem and we believe the Red Terror Museum promises such inspiration and perhaps even some future cooperation as well.

The concept of Red Terror Museum represents an appealing invitation for other post-Soviet countries to participate and strengthen the interconnection and cooperation of the initiatives like The Estonian Institute of Historical Memory among Europe and perhaps the whole world formerly involved in the twentieth-century war history.

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