

H. E. Secretary General of NATO

Mr. Jens Stoltenberg

Boulevard Leopold III,
1110 Brussels, Belgium

Riga, ____ September 2018

Dear Mr. Stoltenberg,

Representing tens of thousands Latvian inhabitants celebrating the end of the WWII on 9 May in Riga, Latvia, we would like to draw your attention to continuous action of one of the Latvian ruling parties - National Alliance with the aim to spread ethnic hate and destabilize internal situation in Latvia. Such behavior is clearly against declared fundamental principles of NATO - to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members, as well as to secure a lasting peace in Europe.

According to the newly published program of the political party National Alliance (Nacionālā apvienība, Visu Latvijai. Tēvzemei un Brīvībai/LNNK) the Riga Victory memorial should be dismantled.¹ The Victory memorial erected in 1985 and after 1991 it became a place of grass roots organized celebrating the end of the WWII as well as family memorial event “Immortal regiment”. Majority of participants are Russian-speaking Latvians. Despite the initiative officially is part of the society integration program of the party, the minister of culture, who is in charge of integration policy and represents the same party, approved that this idea is not connected with the society integration aim², thus it is a provocation spreading hate and ethnic strife.

In our view the NATO member state calling for alliance support, should be responsible for internal stability and avoid such clear provocations in times of global tensions. Latvian government, however with less destructive potential, already supported many of similar initiatives of the National alliance party. Therefore, we urge you as the representative of the alliance to draw attention not only to the payments the member state should make to the alliance, but also to the home work concerning granting internal stability according to the fundamental values of NATO.

Kind regards,

Margarita Dragile

Member of the organizers of the Immortal regiment in Riga

¹ <http://www.nacionalaapvieniba.lv/programma/plasa-programma/valoda-nacionala-identitate-vienotabiedriba/>

² <https://twitter.com/DelfiLV/status/1041588154174767104>