

1940 Katyn – 2010 Smolensk Memorial Day

Saturday, April 13, 2103 at 1:00 pm

The Parliament Hill, Ottawa

Join us in the commemoration of the fallen in Katyn and Smolensk!



Organizers: Solidarity 2010-Ottawa



Supported by:



More information: www.solidarnosc2010.com/ottawa

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Canada officially recognizes April 13th as the Katyn Memorial Day. On that day we commemorate the victims of the Katyn crime: twenty two thousand Polish military officers brutally murdered by the Soviet Secret Police (NKVD) in the Katyn forest near Smolensk in 1940.

The intention was to wipe out the leadership of the Polish nation and to eliminate resistance to the Soviets control of Poland after World War II (WWII). It took historians decades to realize that Katyn was only one of many sites of mass murder of Polish nationals by the Soviet regime between 1939 and 1941.

For decades, the Soviet authorities denied the responsibility for this war crime until they finally admitted to it in 1990, although they were still creating obstacles – and they still do so – with rehabilitation of the victims and reluctant approach to disclosure of documents.

Seventy years later, another tragedy occurred in the very same place based again on lies and half-truths. On April 10, 2010 the airplane carrying Polish national leadership was involved in a fatal crash on landing in Smolensk, Russia en route to the Katyn commemoration ceremonies.

Among 96 dead were the President of Poland, the First Lady, top generals of the Polish Armed Forces and NATO, members of the Parliament, top government officials, members of the clergy, famous anti-communist leaders, and families of the victims of the 1940 Katyn crime. Smolensk crash was the biggest national tragedy for the Polish nation after WWII.

Three years after the crash, numerous facts have come to light casting serious doubts over the official version of the events presented by the Russian side, which blames the crash on pilots' error and that they acted under pressure. However, Russian version contains too many loop holes and is not based on any verifiable evidence.

What we demand and what we will continue relentlessly to demand is the truth about what happened at Smolensk. Resolving the Smolensk case is only possible through an independent, transparent investigation with the participation of world's experts.

On April 13 at the Parliament Hill, Polish Canadians will pay homage to Katyn and Smolensk victims, and commemorate the ultimate sacrifice of their lives for Poland, freedom and democracy. We will also appeal for support from Canadian public and our Canadian government in demanding an international unbiased inquiry to investigate the Smolensk crash.

JOIN US IN THE COMMEMORATION AND SUPPORT THIS JUST CAUSE!