

115466 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Book Presents a Collection of Thought-Provoking Essays on the Katyn Crime

Challenges in the struggle for truth and justice

CLEVELAND, Ohio – (Release Date: September 10, 2012) – The Katyn Crime, commonly known as the Katyn Forest Massacre was a secret mass extermination of Polish nationals carried out by the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD), the Soviet secret police, in April and May of 1940. The mass murder was prompted by the March 5, 1940 order to execute 25,700 members of the Polish Officer Corps and civilian leaders of the Polish society. This official document was approved and signed by the Soviet Politburo, including its leader, Joseph Stalin who made a decision to exterminate all Polish citizens capable of leading the fight for independence of Poland. Stalin based this bold decision on the cold calculation that the “*death of one person amounts to a tragedy but death of millions amounts to mere statistics.*”

KATYN: State-Sponsored Extermination is a collection of noteworthy essays and captivating historical photographs surrounding the mass murder of Polish officers and mass deportations of their families, a criminal act of historic proportions and enduring political implications. For some 47 years after German troops discovered mass graves in the Katyń forest near Smolensk in early 1943, the Soviet authorities stuck to their statement that Germans were responsible for the murder of the Polish officers. It was not until April 1990, however, that the Soviets finally acknowledged that it was the Soviet NKVD that committed the Katyn Crime.

The Polish people both inside and outside of Poland are determined to establish the full truth about the scope and circumstances of the Katyn Crime. They also want to ensure that the victims of the Katyn Crime will not become mere statistics. To this end *Fundacja Pomnik Ofiar Katynia* asks for public support in building the National Katyn Memorial in Poland, recreating one victim at a time, for all the best sons of Poland murdered pursuant to the Katyn Execution Order.

KATYN: State-Sponsored Extermination is an insightful read that explores the rationale on which Joseph Stalin based his genocidal decision and international implications of such decision that reverberate to this day. This collection of essays is also an attempt to draw public attention to the fact that the Katyn Crime has not been fully disclosed, adequately adjudicated and properly condemned. Accordingly, those who perished in the Katyn hecatomb are yet to rest in peace since the moral calculus that brings about reconciliation and closure has not been worked out with respect to the Katyn Crime to this day.

About the Authors

This book represents a joint project undertaken by representatives of the Katyn families and the Polish-American community in collaboration with representatives of the academic community in the United States and Poland.

KATYN: State-Sponsored Extermination

Collection of Essays

Edited by M.B. Szonert

Publication Date: September 10, 2012

Picture Book; \$XX.xx; # pages; 978-1-4771-5579-0

To request a complimentary paperback review copy, contact the publisher at (888) 795-4274 x. 7879. To purchase copies of the book for resale, please fax Xlibris at (610) 915-0294 or call (888) 795-4274 x. 7879.

For more information, contact Xlibris at (888) 795-4274 or the web at: www.Xlibris.com or

Libra Institute, Inc. at www.librainstitute.org.