

Stalin's deportations memorial museum

00:03-00:33 Veronica Postica, victim of Stalin's deportations

Around 2 o'clock after mid-night two soldiers knocked to our door. They told to my mom to get ready for departure. In Revaca train station they embarked us in wagons for animals. We traveled 21 days. In Siberia they gave us only tents, axes and told us to build the barracks.

00:33-00:53

In July 1949, 85 families from Mereni village (Anenii Noi district) have been deported to Siberia. Some of them never came back home. In memory of victims of political deportations in the village has been build an open air museum.

00:53-01:16 Ludmila Seretean, director of Arts school

We would like this museum to have a moral, ethical and esthetical value for young generation. Now we are building the second module of museum – Siberian GULAG. The construction is financed by CHIOS program.

01:16-01:35

This museum of victims of political deportations, built with support of the European Union, is unique in Moldova. The inhabitants of Mereni village decided to build it to maintain alive the history of deported families. Some of them remember with sorrow that tragic moments.

01:36-01:55 Veronica Postica, victim of Stalin's deportations

Let people see our life in Siberia. We donated 1000 Moldovan lei to museum. Some people say that we earned money in Siberia. But we suffered a lot...

01:55-02:15

Moldova has witnessed three waves of deportations – in 1941, 1949 and 1951. Historians are saying that Stalin's deportations is a painful page of our history.

02:15-02:40 Anatol Petrencu, university professor

The deportations are a form of political repression. These people didn't go in vacation in Siberia, they were persecuted. 13875 persons were deported in 1941, 35796 – in 1949 and 2641 – in 1951.

02:40-02:51

The young people from Mereni are involved in construction of the museum. They say that the young generation should learn the history of Moldova, including deportations.

00:51-03:01 Cristina Lungu

The young people participated in construction of the museum. We painted the walls, cleaned the territory etc.

03:01-03:14 Razvan Chirita

This project is very important for young people from Mereni, because we rediscover the recent history of our village and nation.

03:14-03:50

The deportations memorial museum is composed of five modules: peasant household, the road to Siberia, barracks, underground passage and expo area. The construction works at the second module plan to be finalized by end-September 2016. The inhabitants of the village hope to attract additional financial recourses to finalize the museum complex, which will present a clear picture of the deportation victims' life.

Veronica CEBOTARI

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