



Press Conference

“Summary of the International Scholarly Conference “Operation “North”. 70 Years after: important lessons of repression””

Date: April 9, 2021, 11 a.m. (Kyiv time).

Format and Platform: Ukrinform Press Centre. Online press conference via ZOOM videoconferencing service. The event will be broadcast on Ukrinform YouTube channels:

- Ukrainian <https://youtu.be/oiyRMydH4Y0>
- English <https://youtu.be/37p2wEqM9VU>

Participants: *Andriy Yurash*, Head of the Department on Religious Affairs and Nationalities at Ukraine's Ministry of Culture; *Liudmyla Fylypovych*, PhD, Professor, Vice-President of the Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion. *Kostiantyn Berezhko*, Candidate of Historical Sciences, visiting researcher at the Dresden University of Technology, Hannah Arendt Institute for Totalitarianism Studies.

Ivan Riher, spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses in Ukraine.

Preview: Press conference will cover the highlights of the International Academic Online Conference “70 Years after Operation ‘North’: Important Lessons of Repression”, which will be held on April 8, 2021. The academic event is dedicated to the 70th Anniversary of Operation “North”. It became the largest deportation of civilians by the Soviet totalitarian regime on religious grounds. During a single day, 6,271 of Jehovah's Witnesses (including women and children) were exiled from the territory of Western Ukraine to Siberia for good. Their property was confiscated.

The participants of the event will summarize the lessons of those historical events for the modern Ukrainian society from historical, public and religious perspectives. Additionally, declassified KGB archive materials will be demonstrated as well as a 3D-tour and a website, which were specially designed to publicize this little-known event in the history of Ukraine.

For Media Representatives: Questions for speakers and requests to attend the Academic Conference can be sent beforehand to pid.ua@jw.org or to WhatsApp (+38 (063) 041-71-49).

Organizers: Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion, Center of Jehovah's Witnesses in Ukraine.