

## Red Army mistreats Baltic soldiers

*The following report on the Red Army's mistreatment of draftees from the Baltic nations was made available to the West German newspaper Neue Solidarität, which passed it on to EIR.*

People in the Baltic are oppressed and troubled in many ways. Only if one has some knowledge of these, does it become understandable why the three [Baltic] nations are determined to leave the Soviet Union, no matter what the cost. For, each new day under the Soviet regime brings new victims.

"The deportation of people from the Baltic hasn't stopped," said a mother whose son was inducted into the Army and was murdered shortly thereafter. "Today is not like 1949, when peasant families were simply deported and killed; today almost 100% of the recruits are sent out of the country and are scattered all across the gigantic Union, where they are subjected to the most brutal physical and mental maltreatment. Many are maimed, and many suffer such psychological damage that they end up in mental institutions. And many more come back to their hometown in a zinc coffin. This is the way the genocide against the Baltic peoples is being continued."

Statements such as this are not exaggerated. The high desertion rate is evidence of the internal condition of the Soviet Army, of how demoralized it is at the present time. This can be ascribed to the rapid rise of criminality within the entire Soviet society.

Former prisoners also end up in the military service, where they find ways to vent their pent-up rage over the degradations which they had to suffer in prison, by torturing the younger soldiers with sadistic attacks.

Since the Army leadership is at pains to conceal its abusive attitude toward human beings, it is very difficult to get a precise overview of the extent of this genocide. In Riga, [Latvia] there are two ladies' auxiliaries which keep track of the men who have gone into the military moloch, but many parents are afraid to give them precise information about the fate of their sons, making it all the more difficult to estimate the number of victims.

Here is the story of one young man who fled the Soviet Army:

"On Dec. 12, 1988, I, Harija Eliass, in Riga, was inducted into military service in the Soviet Army. I was sent to Central Asia, where I was to be trained as an army cook. After I finished school in May 1989, for the rest of my term of service I was transferred to Tedzen-1 and assigned to Army Unit 10858 'x.' Up through Jan. 1, 1990 [the day of the events described below], I had never been reproached for any violation of the Army's military regulations.

"On Jan. 1, at 5:00 a.m. a deputy political commissar of my regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Adranov, arrived at the company barracks and woke everyone up to check if anyone was under the influence of alcohol. Everyone who had been drinking was sent to the brig. My comrades and I went back to sleep. About 20 minutes later I was woken up by the cook Falsivnikov. He told me I had to go look for the cook on night watch, who had disappeared. I got dressed and was about to go out, but I hadn't reached the door when Lieutenant Colonel Zarovna came in. Without saying a word, he struck me in the face a number of times with his fist. My nose and my split lip began to bleed. Zarovna sent me out to wash my face."

### 'You Baltic sow!'

"When I returned from the washroom, Zarovna ordered me to lie on the floor. Then he called over two soldiers and ordered them to tie my hands behind my back. While I lay on the floor with my hands tied, Zarovna trod on me with his feet. He stepped all over my body, and also on my face. Then he ordered the two soldiers to grab me by the feet and drag me down the stairs to the brig.

When my friends offered to lift me up and carry me down, he did not permit it. So they dragged me down the stairs and pulled me by the feet through the courtyard, past the mess hall and into the brig. Every time I tried to raise my head, Zarovna kicked me in the face with his foot and said that my head had to be dragged along the ground, too. He accompanied the entire proceeding with curses such as 'You fascist! Criminal! You piece of filth! I'll show you how revolutions are made, you Baltic sow!'

"In the brig my hands were freed and I was locked up in a cell. My face and entire body were swollen. After about three hours, a soldier from my company came in and led me before the staff. There stood Lieutenant Colonel Zarovna, and Persidsnis, and the chief cook Proporscik Savcenko. When Persidsnis asked me who had done this to me, I remained silent. Then Zarovna sent me to work, to prepare lunch. After lunch I went to the first aid division where my injuries were documented. I gave the documentation to the head of the company, who forwarded it to Colonel Kasanov in the staff.

"On Jan. 12 I spoke with my mother. When Colonel Kasanov found out that I had spoken with her, he forced me to send a telegram home ordering my mother not to tell anyone else about what had happened."