

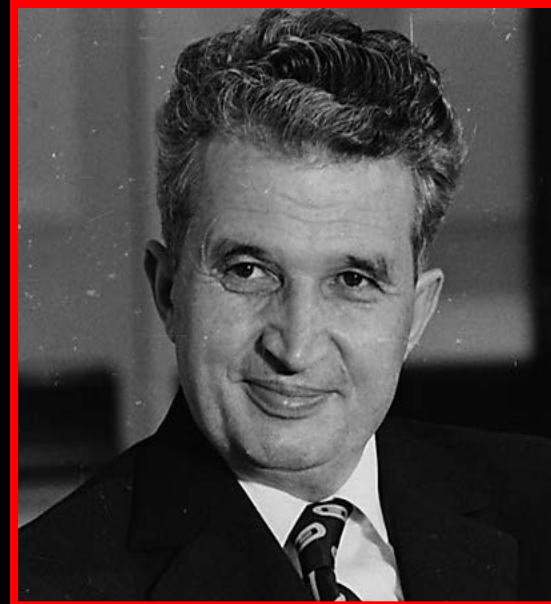


**Study Centre for National Reconciliation**  
***Slovenia***

# **WHY WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THE VICTIMS?**

**Andreja Valič Zver, PhD**

**Reykjavik, September 2013**





**Slovenia, December 2009**

The President of the Republic of Slovenia distinguished the former head of the secret political police



**Slovenia, March 2011**

Slovenia issued a coin with the red star and the image of a controversial partisan leader



# Why are we studying events from the recent past?



**Ljubljana, December 2012 - April 2013**

Why are we drawing attention to the violations of the fundamental human rights and freedoms, when there are constant calls to leave the past behind, to stop digging up the bones and to live for today and for tomorrow.



**Ljubljana, April 2013**

The Slovenian political elite at the concert of the partisan choir







# Tito`s monument restored with European funds



**The European Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development: Europe  
investing in rural areas**

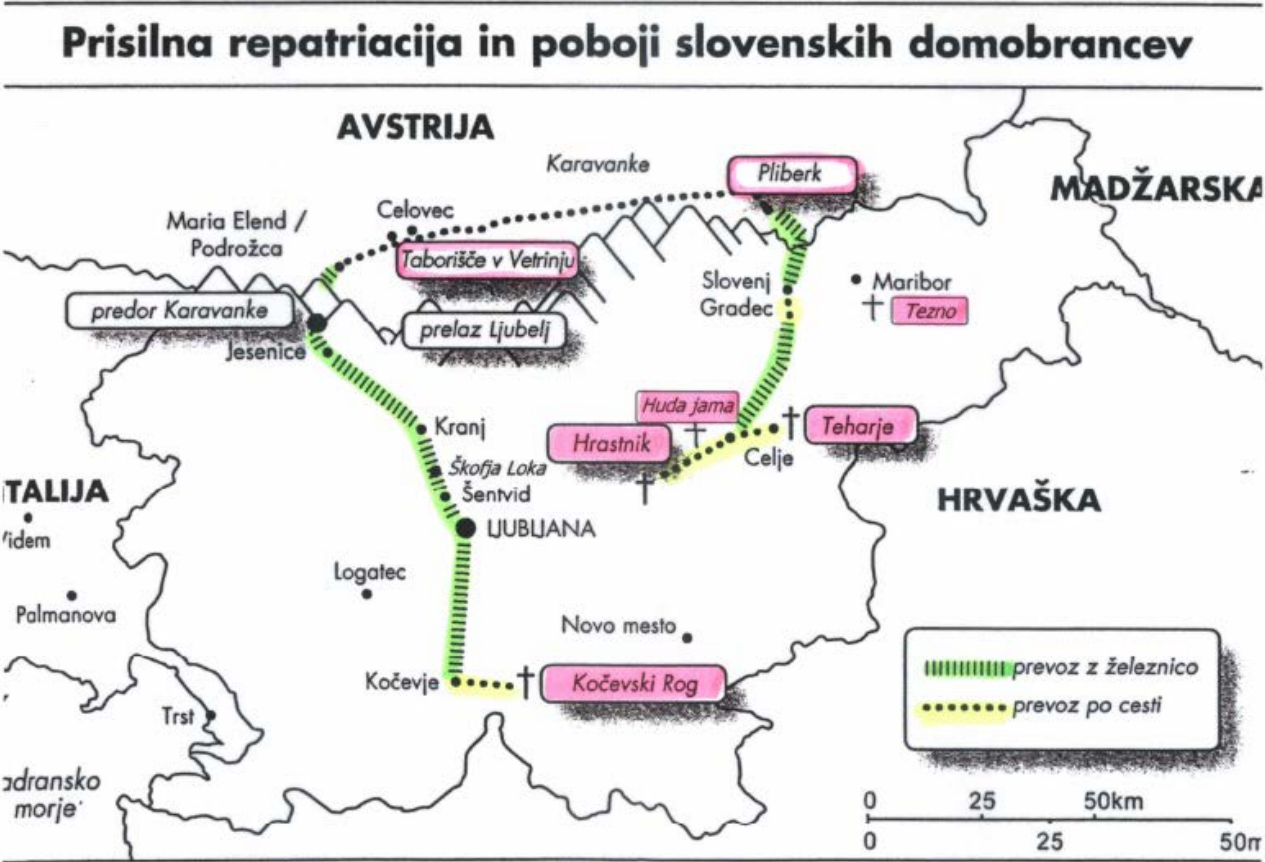
## Tito`s speech in Ljubljana, on 26 May 1945



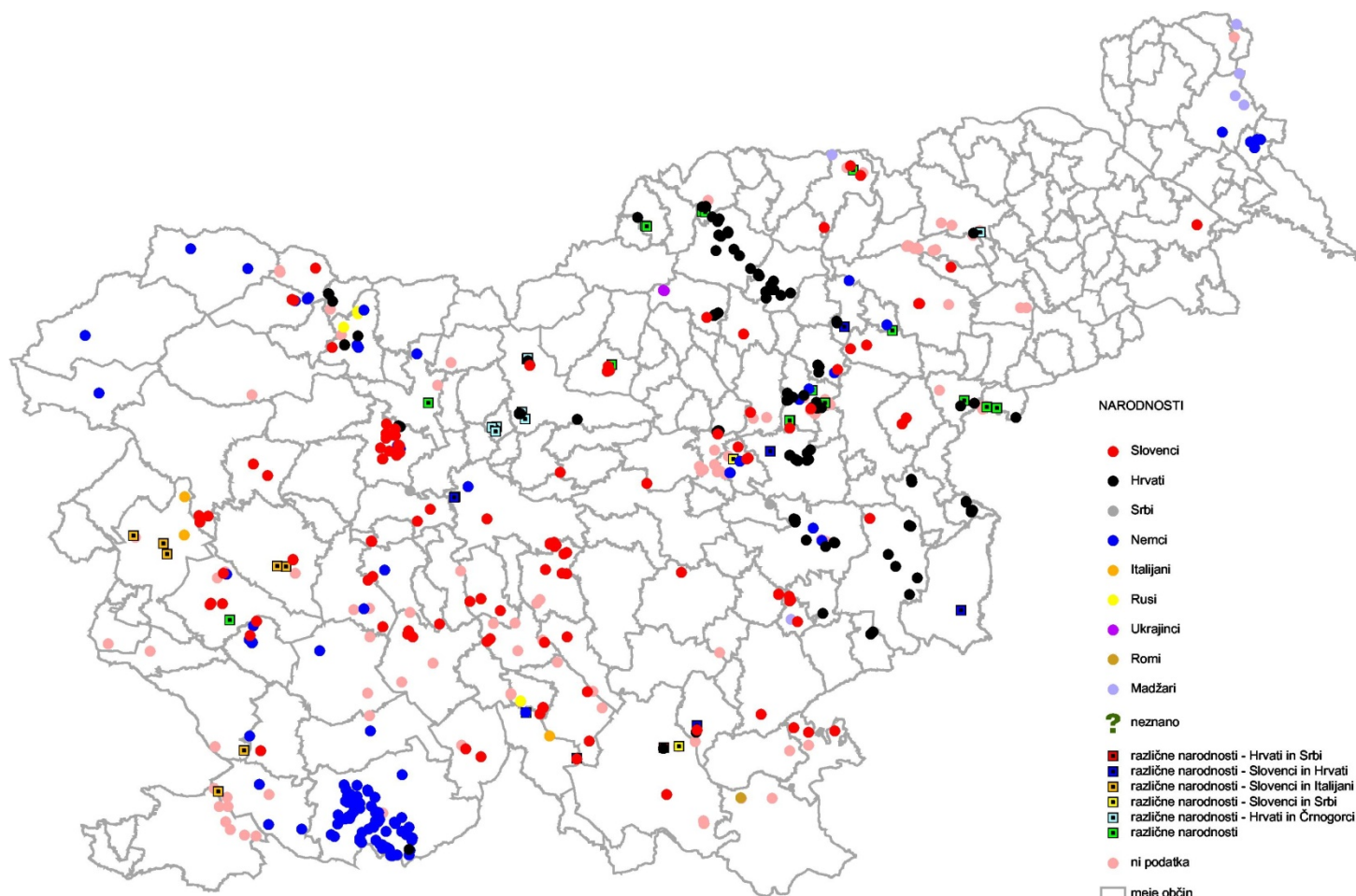
*"This minority will never again admire our beautiful mountains, our blooming fields. Should this nevertheless happen, that would last only for a very short time."*



# Directions of repatriation and main locations of mass killings

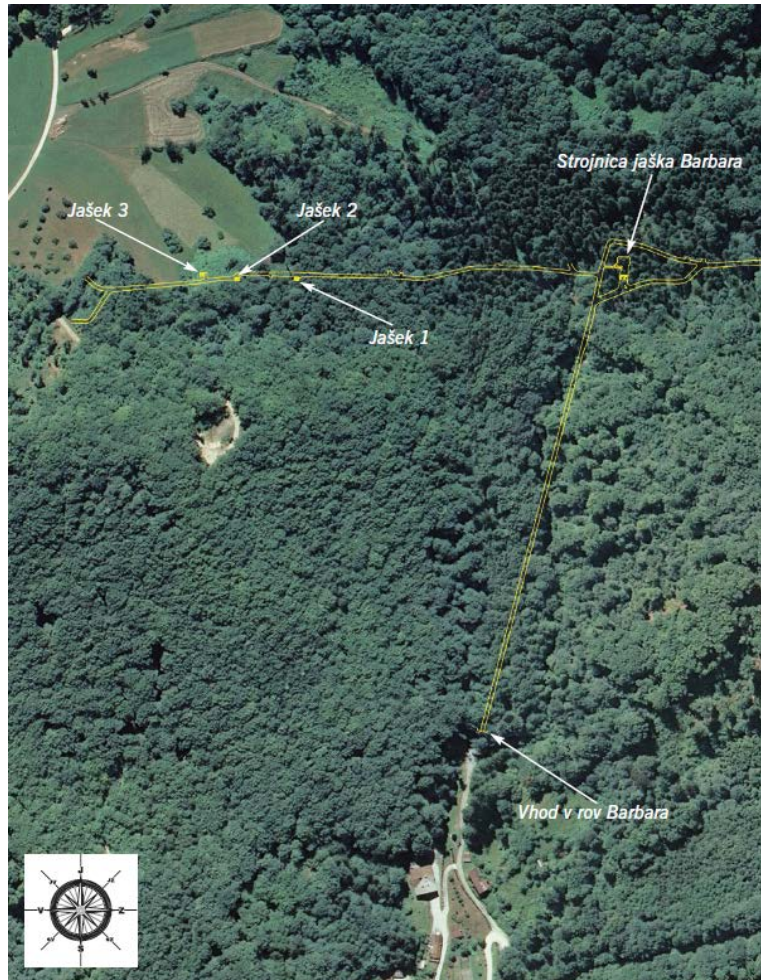


# So far, more than 620 mass graves from the period immediately after WWII have been discovered in Slovenia





# Huda jama - the site of mass killings of unarmed people (estimated 3,500 victims)







After 100 meters and eleven barriers (consisting of 400 cubic meters of concrete, clay, bricks, rocks, rails, etc.), a multitude of mummified corpses was discovered.





**Among the victims were also  
the wounded, the disabled...**

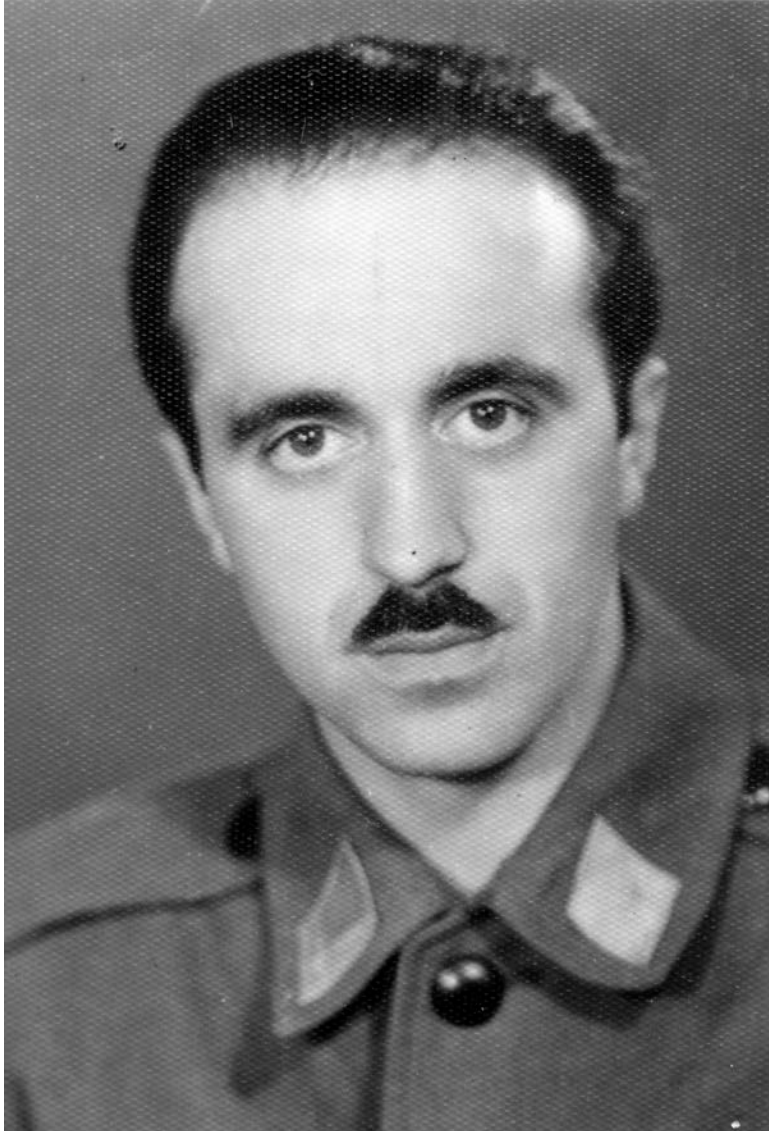




## ...and women







**Mitja Ribičič** (born 19 May 1919-)

In October 1941, he became a member of the Yugoslav Communist Party's (KPJ). In May 1942, he joined the Partisan resistance. In November 1944, he was sent to the Soviet NKVD Academy for training. After his return, in early 1945, he served as a high-ranking official of the OZNA, the Yugoslav military intelligence, and then in the UDBA, the secret police. He was in charge of political repression of the anti-communist opposition in Slovenia.

-(1945 and 1957), he was at the top of the repressive system in Slovenia.

-(1957 -1963), he was a member of the Slovenian government, and then a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovenia.

-In 1966, he rose to the leadership of the Yugoslav Communist Party, serving first as a member of the Executive Central Committee of the Party, and then as president of the Yugoslav government.

-(1974 -1982), he was president of the Socialist Union of the Working People of Slovenia, the official platform that included all professional and voluntary associations in Slovenia.

-(1982 and 1983), he became president of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, and was one of its members until 1986, when he retired.

Several victims of Communist political persecution have accused him of brutal treatment during the time when he was an official with the secret police. In 2005, Ribičič was charged by the Slovenian state prosecutor for genocide involving the actions of the Yugoslav People's Army against prisoners of war in the aftermath of World War II. The case, opened 60 years after the crime, was dismissed due to a lack of evidence.

# The European Day of Remembrance for the victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes

2009



Prime Minister Janez Janša, his wife, and Director of SCNR, Dr Andreja Valič Zver.

In 2009, the European Day of Remembrance for victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes was commemorated by the SCNR for the first time with a public screening of the film 'The Hidden Memory of Angela Vode' at Rajhenburg Castle in Brestanica where Angela Vode, a Slovenian pedagogue, publicist, pre-war communist, co-founder of the Slovenian Liberation Front and women's rights activist, was imprisoned during the communist regime.



The ceremony was attended by senior representatives of secular and ecclesiastical authorities in Slovenia.

2010





# The European Day of Remembrance for the victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes



2011



The courtyard of the Monastery of Friars Minor in Ptuj. At the end, the documentary film 'ORMOŠKI PETRIČEK' was shown on the memories of children imprisoned in Ormož Castle in the summer of 1945. MEP Sandra Kalniete and Dr Ljubo Sirc gave welcome addresses.



2012



The attendees were greeted by MEP Tunne Kelam and Göran Lindblad, President of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience via a video broadcast.



# The European Day of Remembrance for the victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes



2013

The keynote speaker at this year's event was a hundred-year-old writer **Boris Pahor** who has first hand experience of all European totalitarianisms of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a seven-year-old boy, he witnessed the burning of the Slovenian National Home in Trieste.





# Project: „Monument” at the mass grave Macesnova gorica



The project was prepared in cooperation with the Horizon Research from the University of Nottingham, the Slovenian National and University Library and the secondary school students from Gimnazija Želimlje.



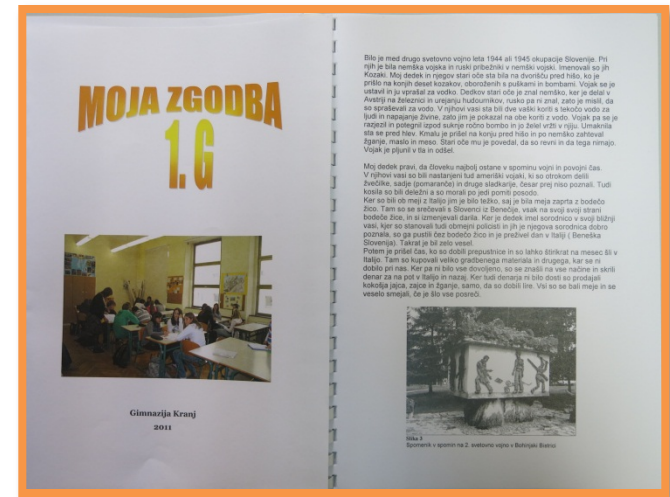


In the project Monument the visitors dial the number written on a marked board and listen to the testimony on a mobile phone.





# Project: „My Story“

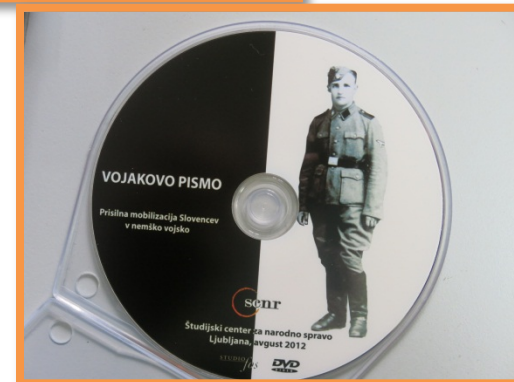
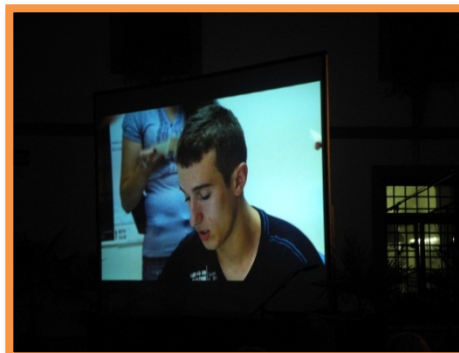


It deals with the experience of an interview in which the participants meet the contemporary history on the basis of their own family story.



## Documentary film “Soldiers letter”

On the basis of the collected testimonies of secondary school students, included in the project „My story“, we prepared a script for a short documentary film, depicting the time of WWII and forced mobilization of Slovene young men into the Germany army.



The film was produced by the Study Centre for National Reconciliation.



# Totalitarianism in Europe : Fascism - Nazism - Communism an international travelling exhibition



On 17 January 2013 the roundtable and opening of the exhibition "Totalitarianism in Europe" was held at the Kranj town hall.



A guided tour for students of Gimnazija Kranj was organized by SCNR.