

Subject: Arseny Roginsky exposes some anti-Stalin lies (really!)

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Roginsky was the founder of the "Memorial Society," a viciously anticommunist group that calls itself a "human rights organization. It gets funding from Western NGOs -- and also has a contradictory relationship with the Russian government, which has given it access to a lot of materials and has also tried to restrict it.

Over the years I've read a lot of Roginsky's research. Surprisingly, it is usually very well done! (I can't say "always" because I have not studied all of it.) That is the reason for this email of mine to you.

Here are a couple of examples:

Example #1:

* Was the 1948 "Anti-Cosmopolitan Campaign" in the USSR anti-semitic or not? Roginsky: This is a "myth."

"This was the theme of that day's lecture, then: taking the long view, remembering the future of memory—that the museums and monuments would still be here when we were gone. As long as that was the case, someone might do a better job with them in the future. "But how will they do it?" he asked. "How is it possible to use a museum space to convey the condition of being Jewish in the Soviet Union in the late nineteen-forties?" That was the era of **Stalin's so-called anti-cosmopolitan campaign, which every Soviet Jewish family remembers as a time of great danger and even greater fear.**

Roginsky laid out some yellowed, typewritten pages on his cluttered desk. These were arrest statistics. In 1947, sixty-eight thousand people were arrested for anti-Soviet activities; four hundred and fifty-one of them were Jews. In 1948, there were nine hundred and fifty-six Jews out of a total of seventy thousand people arrested. In 1949, it was 1,979 Jews out of seventy thousand. And so on, down to four hundred and five Jews out of a total of eleven and a half thousand in 1953, the year of Stalin's death.

"So you see, in reality, a negligible number of Jews were arrested," Roginsky said. In his field, hundreds of arrests could be viewed as a negligible number. "But the myth is enormous!"

- <https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/how-arseny-roginsky-confronted-the-politics-of-memory-in-russia>

Example #2:

* **"In the early 90's I did a lot of statistics on Soviet terror.** I studied a huge number of reporting "sheets" about terror for all years, from different regions of the Soviet Union. The statistics we have seriously begins from 1921, until 1921 only fragments remained. And, since 1921 - huge folders. In 1994 I studied everything, transcribed everything and put it away. Later, it should be published. I looked at the numbers I had obtained...

There are people around me in the outside world, whose opinion is important for me: there is the traditional intellectual public opinion, and, most importantly, the opinion of former prisoners who were still very much alive in 1994. And they measured our victims in the whole history of terror by some absolutely inconceivable figures, tens of millions.

And yet, according to my calculations, in the entire history of Soviet power,

from 1918 to 1987 (the last arrests were in early 1987), according to the surviving documents, it turned out that 7 million 100 thousand people were arrested by security agencies across the country. At the same time, among them were arrested -- and quite a lot -- not only for political crimes. Yes, they were arrested by security agencies, but security agencies arrested people for banditry, smuggling, counterfeiting. And for many other "general-purpose" crimes.

Under all these numbers there are folders with documents. In the annual reports of the security services, there are: those involved - so many, including with arrest, including without arrest. Then the table begins the movement of the arrested. Passed on the completed investigative cases - so many, including, transferred to a special session [of the NKVD -- GF] - so many, transferred to the courts and tribunals - so much. In non-judicial bodies - so many. Those who had run away, those who had died -- everything. . By the way, there were very few who ran away.

And here is the final figure - 7 million. This is for the whole history of Soviet power.

What to do about it? Public opinion says that we have almost 12 million arrested only for 1937-1939. And I belong to this society, I live among these people, I am a part of them. Not the Soviet government part, not the Russian democracy, but these people. I just knew for sure that, first, they would not believe me. And, secondly, for the circle to which I consider myself to be, it would mean that everything that we were told about the figures until now quite respected by us people is not true.

So I put all my calculations aside. For a long time. After years, it may be possible to publish them. But not now. Later!.

- <http://old.memo.ru/d/124360.html>

Sincerely,

Grover Furr