



**Stichting Geschiedenis
Totalitaire Regimes
en hun Slachtoffers**

**Foundation History
of Totalitarian Regimes
and their Victims**

Controversial 2 € Coin from Slovenia

Extraordinary International Information, March 2011

On March 21, 2011, the Bank of Slovenia issued one million copies of a commemorative two-euro (2 €) coin that will be used as a regular means of payment all over the EU. The coins bear an image of the WW II Partisan Commander Franc Rozman – Stane, while the lower portion of the coin bears a five-point star, the symbol of the Yugoslav Communist revolutionary movement to which Commander Stane belonged. The decision of the present-day Slovenian Social-Democratic Government to honor a Communist commander has produced ideological and political controversy. Most parties of the opposition and a large portion of the Slovenian population see a contradiction between the European currency representing European values and the new coin celebrating the Communist revolution regardless of the fact that it developed in the context of (and was enveloped by) the National Liberation Movement during WW II. According to published testimonies, Commander Franc Rozman-Stane was responsible, during the war, for summary executions of 60 civilians.

In the past two years, the indifference towards European values has unfortunately become a habit of the current Slovenian government. We've witnessed more than only a few outrageous events:

- One of the largest avenues in Ljubljana has been named after the leader of the former Socialist Federalist Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY), the Communist dictator Josip Broz Tito, who, according to various counts, was responsible for over a million deaths during the period of his dictatorship;
- The President of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Danilo Türk has characterized the post-war illegal killings of civilians and the finding of a mass grave "Huda jama" where thousands of corpses (also women's and children's) were found, as a "second-rate topic";
- On top of that, at the end of 2009, the President honored Mr. Tomaž Ertl, the former Chief of the Communist Secret Police, with a high state decoration;
- The Social Democrats and their coalition refused the motion of SDS to support the Resolution on European conscience and totalitarianism adopted by the European Parliament and its publication in the official gazette of the Republic of Slovenia;
- Mr. Branko Masleša, who took part in the secret commission of the Yugoslav army, which verified killings at the former Yugoslav-Italian border and opposed Slovenia's independence, was appointed President of the Supreme Court of Slovenia;
- The latest controversy is connected with the proposal by the Government of Mr. Zvonko Fišer to become the new Attorney General. Mr. Fišer has distinguished himself during Yugoslav times as an ambitious state prosecutor. He has pressed charges against two priests who wanted to set up a cross at a site of illegal killings of civilians by the former regime. The priests were judicially rehabilitated after Slovenia became independent.

The latest Slovenian edition of the European coins is surprising especially in the light of the fact that Slovenia will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence in June 2011. It is shameful that such an important moment of national history will not be commemorated, while Europeans using the new Slovenian coin will be puzzled by its controversial symbolism. We hoped that the Slovenian government would have better judgment and celebrate anniversaries that unite the people, rather than divide them.

Dr. Milan Zver

PS.

I would also like to add some information to the statement in dr. Zvers' article about naming the avenue in Ljubljana after Josip Broz Tito. The supreme court of Republic Slovenia in October 2011 abolished naming of the avenue after Tito with explanation that his figure mostly symbolises former totalitarian regime and that the naming is in contradiction with constitutionally granted right of human dignity. The mayor of Ljubljana Zoran Janković, who with his coalition named the street in Ljubljana after Tito, has got the majority of votes in the parliamentary polls on 4th December 2011.

Barbara Štumberger

Remembering the wrong things is dangerous for democracy (J. Keane)

Dear colleagues!

On Monday (April 4 2011) I forwarded to you the "SDS international information" release about the controversial 2 EURO coin from Slovenia. Consequently, Slovenian MEP Jelko Kacin replied and in address to all MEPs (April 6 2011) attacked me and Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) for providing you with "blatant omission in the message sent to all of you". Allow me to elaborate and supply further facts that to my judgement support SDS release.

One million copies of a commemorative two-euro (2 €) coin issued by the Bank of Slovenia bears two symbols. Firstly, an image of the WWII Slovenian Partisan Commander Franc Rozman – Stane, who was responsible for the extra-judicial killings of hundreds of civilians in Slovenia during the spring/summer 1942ⁱ, and secondly, a five-point star, a controversial symbol in many EU member states as well as in Slovenia, which represents to many victims the symbol of the (revolutionary) violence.

With this statement I do not want to diminish the importance of the Slovenian Partisan movement that fought against Nazi and Fascist occupation of Slovenian territory during the WWII.

However, the two symbols on the Slovenian 2 EURO coin have nothing to do with the democratic tradition neither in Slovenia nor in the European Unionⁱⁱ.

Unfortunately this is just the last in line of acts of the actual Slovenian authorities trying to reinforce symbols of a totalitarian regime, what reflects its 'state of mind'. For the sake of

every European it would be wiser to put on a EURO coin a non-controversial personality from the rich Slovenian history. After all, EURO as a European symbol is suppose to promote unity and reconciliation among Europeans and not to instigate divisions and express disrespect to many who suffered in the hands of past totalitarian regimes.

In his last book John Keane says that remembering the wrong things is dangerous for democracy. Discussions at the public hearing that took place in the European Parliament on March 29 2011 on ‘What do young Europeans know about totalitarianisms’, which was co-organised by MEPs László Tőkés, Sandra Kalniete and me, stressed that those, who ignore history are condemned to repeat it, particularly its ‘dark sides’.

Yours sincerely,
Milan Zver

ⁱ According to the research that is being done by the Slovenian Institute of Contemporary History hundreds of civilians were executed in the Dolenjska and Notranjska regions in Slovenia between April/May 1942 and July/August 1942 by the partisans (II. grupa odredov) under the command of Franc Rozman Stane.

The evidence of these executions can be found in the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia. Declarations about the executions can be found even in a book written by the supporters of the Communist regime »Documents of the popular revolution in Slovenia« (Dokumenti ljudske revolucije na Slovenskem). There is also other evidence that provides the proof for these executions (for example Kardelj's letters; Kardelj was the leader of the Slovenian Communist movement).

ⁱⁱ Even though the executions were done during the war time, they are still executions of innocent victims. **“From the perspective of the victims it is immaterial which regime deprived them of their liberty or tortured or murdered them for whatever reason”** (from the European Parliament Joint motion for a resolution on European conscience and totalitarianism from 2009, signed among others also by the ALDE political group).

€2 commemorative coin: Franc Rozman - Stane (special packaging)

The Bank of Slovenia has prepared a special €2 proof commemorative coin issued to mark **the 100th anniversary of the birth of the national hero Franc Rozman - Stane:**

- 2,000 coins mounted in card: sales price EUR 12.00 *
- 10,000 coins in special packaging (capsule): sales price EUR 9.00.

They are on sale from 21 March 2011.

**Item is no longer available.*

100th anniversary of the birth of the national hero Franc Rozman-Stane



Franc Rozman – Stane was born on 27 March 1911 in Spodnje Pirniče near Ljubljana. He endured a poor and difficult childhood. At 15 he worked in a tavern, and later trained to be a baker's assistant. He was fascinated with the army as a boy, and was one of the first Yugoslav volunteers in Spain following the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. He completed non-commissioned officer school in Jarama. He became a lieutenant and company commander, and later a captain and battalion commander in an international brigade. He was a grave and determined fighter. He spent some time in French camps following the war in Spain, and later escaped and returned home.

Immediately following the occupation of Yugoslavia, he organised partisan units in the Štajerska region, and was a military instructor and organiser of the Štajerska battalion. In the spring of 1942 he became commander of the Slovenian partisan brigade established in Kremenik in the Dolenjska region. The brigade comprised more than 300 fighters, and was the strongest partisan unit of its time. As general, he was commander of the High Command of the National Liberation Army and the Slovenian partisan resistance from July 1943 until his death. He died on 7 November 1944 in the Kanžarica Liberation Front Hospital in Črnomelj as the result of wounds suffered during the testing of a new weapon. He was proclaimed a national hero of Yugoslavia following his death, and is buried in the tomb of national heroes in Ljubljana.

Commander Stane, as he was referred to by the partisan fighters, represented the ideas and hopes of the Slovenian nation during the national liberation struggle, and is considered one of that period's leading figures.

Slovenia is issuing a two-euro commemorative coin to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the national hero, Franc Rozman - Stane. The coin will bear an image of Commander Stane, while the lower portion of the coin will bear a five-point star, the symbol of the movement to which Commander Stane belonged.

Original design by: Edi Berk, Ljubljana

Production and minting: Mint of Finland, Vantaa, Finland

Minted: 1 million coins

Date of issue: 21 March 2011

Official Journal of the EU, [No. 2011/C 57/05](#), dated 23. 2. 2011

<http://www.bsi.si/iskalniki/priloznostne-izdaje-BS-en.asp?mapaid=954&leto=2011>