

Problems of rehabilitation of Soviet citizens in the USSR and in Russia: second half of the twentieth century – early 2000

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Abstract. The process of rehabilitation of repressed Soviet citizens was inseparable from the socio-political changes that took place in Soviet society. In the article, based on an analysis of Soviet and Russian regulations, the author highlights the stages of the rehabilitation process, during which important government decisions were made in relation to citizens who suffered from political repression. The review of cases, which began actively in the mid-1950s, especially after the decisions of the 20th Congress of the CPSU (1956), was essentially curtailed in the 1960s. Most historians and jurists agree that the main stage of rehabilitation occurs in the late 1980s – early 2000. New laws on rehabilitation were adopted; commissions were created to restore the rights of rehabilitated Soviet citizens. In the article, the author focuses on those government measures that were aimed at improving the social situation of rehabilitated persons. A description was provided of the documentary database available to the modern Rehabilitation and Information Departments of the Information Centers under the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of Russia in the Russian regions, which handle rehabilitation issues in contemporary society. The author described the procedure and conditions for rehabilitation and showed the problems that employees of information centers face when making a decision on rehabilitation. The active process of rehabilitation of Soviet citizens that began in the mid-1950s has important historical significance not only in the official recognition of the illegality of the persecution of Soviet citizens, but also in the restoration of social justice, their civil rights, and good name. The article was written on the basis of an analysis of Soviet regulation documents from the Archive of the Information Center of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Kemerovo Region (Department of Archival Information and Rehabilitation).

Keywords: rehabilitation, Soviet and Russian legislation, Soviet law, archival documents, Soviet Union, Russia, World War II, prisoners of war, special settlement

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Проблемы реабилитации советских граждан в СССР и в России: вторая половина XX в. — начало 2000 гг.

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Аннотация. Процесс реабилитации репрессированных советских граждан был неотделим от тех социально-политических изменений, которые происходили в советском обществе. В статье на основе анализа советских и российских нормативных правовых актов автор освещает этапы процесса реабилитации, в период которых принимались важные государственные решения в отношении граждан, пострадавших от политических репрессий. Активно начавшийся в середине 1950-х гг., особенно после решений XX съезда КПСС (1956), пересмотр дел, по сути, был свернут в 1960-е гг. Большинство историков и правоведов сходятся во мнении, что основной этап реабилитации приходится на конец 1980 — начало 2000-х гг. Были приняты новые законы о реабилитации, созданы комиссии по восстановлению прав реабилитируемых советских граждан. В статье акцентировано внимание на тех государственных мерах, которые были направлены на улучшение социального положения реабилитированных лиц. Дана характеристика документальной базы, которой располагают современные отделы реабилитации и информации информационных центров Главного управления МВД России в российских регионах, решающих вопросы реабилитации в современном обществе. Описан порядок и условия реабилитации, показаны проблемы, с которыми сталкиваются сотрудники информационных центров при вынесении решения о реабилитации. Начавшийся в середине 1950-х гг. активный процесс реабилитации имеет историческое значение не только для официального признания незаконности преследований советских граждан, но и для восстановления социальной справедливости, их гражданских прав, честного имени. Статья написана на основе анализа советских нормативных правовых актов, документов Архива информационного центра Главного управления МВД России по Кемеровской области (отдел архивной информации и реабилитации).

Ключевые слова: реабилитация, советское и российское законодательство, советское право, архивные документы, Советский Союз, Россия, Вторая мировая война, военнопленные, спецпоселение

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The first attempts to prove one's innocence, groundlessness, illegality of repression and restore one's civil rights date back to the mid-1940s. People at the special settlement sent letters of appeal to I.S. Stalin, V.M. Molotov, L.P. Beria, N.V. Shvernik, addressed to various government agencies and law enforcement agencies. Moreover, after receiving an official refusal to be released and have their rights restrictions lifted,

special settlers wrote new letters demanding to be removed from the special settlement registry and to be rehabilitated – including morally – before Soviet society.

For example, several times Yakov Oboladze demanded that his case be reviewed and petitioned for release to various Soviet authorities. Thus, in a letter addressed to L.P. Beria (in Georgian), he wrote: “Together with Russian and Italian partisans from the 15th Garibaldi Brigade, I fought against Italian and German Nazi bloodsuckers until 1945. This is certified by the documents I submitted (certificate) and the newspaper ‘Zarya Vostoka’, which published a story about the actions of Georgian partisans in Northern Italy. Upon returning to my homeland in the Soviet Union, I was sent to Leninsk-Kuznetsky to one of the mines, where I am currently working. Despite the relevant documents that I had about my partisan past and which I sent to the internal affairs bodies, I never received an answer. <...> They tell me that I have to serve five years. But I did not fight on the side of the enemy. On the contrary, I acted behind enemy lines, defending my homeland in a communist partisan detachment. Comrade Lavrentiy Pavlovich Beria, I ask you to provide me with proper assistance in resolving my case, which will allow me to return to my native land”.¹

He did not receive a response to his letter. However, an additional check was carried out on the identity of the person involved in the case, and the necessary certificates were collected (including information about relatives from a Georgian village). He was given the long-awaited certificate of release from the special settlement only on April 15, 1952. But no further rehabilitation followed. [1, p. 164–172]

Fought in the ranks of the detachment named after Garibaldi V.P. Lomidze was wounded in one of the street battles and sent to a sanitary unit in the mountains, and then transported by the Italians to Switzerland. After the war, he was expelled from the camp for displaced persons to the USSR and, through the PFL No. 0315, was sent to a special settlement in the Kemerovo region. Despite repeated letters and appeals to the country's leadership, he remained at the settlement until 1951. Both the petition of the head of the Georgian partisan detachment K.M. Lezhava and the publication in the newspaper “Zarya Vostoka”, which told about the heroism, courage and exploits of the Soviet partisans, did not help.²

Some of the Soviet soldiers who fought in the Resistance were released from the administrative supervision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 1951–1952. After the expiration of a 6-year period of stay at the settlement. For many of them, however, the expectation of freedom dragged on until 1956, nevertheless, from 1954 onwards, the regime of detention for them was considerably relaxed. [2, p. 121] Judging by the materials of personal files, many of the war heroes have not been rehabilitated to this day.

¹ Учетное дело спецпоселенца Я. С. Оболадзе (1946—1952 гг.) и учетно-фильтрационное дело проверочно-фильтрационного лагеря (ПФЛ) № 0315 // Архив Информационного центра Главного управления МВД России по Кемеровской области (Архив ИЦ ГУ МВД России по Кемеровской области). Ф. 11. Оп. 1. Арх. 23490.

² См.: Kote Lezhava sent a character reference to the UNKVD of the Kemerovo Oblast (KO) for his fellow combatants, including V.P. Lomidze. The text of this reference is preserved in his personal file. However, in 1949, the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of the Kemerovo Oblast concluded that Lomidze had voluntarily surrendered to the enemy (despite a severe wound), had voluntarily joined the enemy's service, and was therefore guilty of crimes against the Soviet people and ineligible for release.

However, at the state level, by the mid-1950s, the first decisions regarding the recognition of the groundlessness of the use of repression were made.

Regulatory acts on rehabilitation in the 1950s. In 1954–1958 Some of the cases of Soviet citizens who fought against Nazism on the territory of European countries, who applied for their rehabilitation and declared unjustified deportation to settlement, were reviewed. Since 1954, commissions began to operate in the USSR, which, based on a thorough analysis of documents, received the right to rehabilitation, pardon, amnesty or reclassification of charges against those involved in cases.

In August 1954, the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a secret Resolution No. 1738-789 (top secret)¹, which became part of the policy of the Soviet state aimed at softening the regime of special settlements. The resolution lifted restrictions on special settlements from former kulaks and members of their families (evicted under the resolutions of 1930–1933), as well as from Germans of the Far East, Siberia, the Urals, Central Asia, Kazakhstan and other regions of the country, mobilized during the Great Patriotic War for work in industry, the eviction of which was not carried out from their places of residence. Those released from the special settlement could live freely on the territory of the USSR (except for a number of prohibited zones). Property, houses and outbuildings confiscated during eviction were not subject to return.

By a Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated December 13, 1955, Germans and members of their families who had been deported to special settlements during the Great Patriotic War were released from the administrative supervision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) authorities. This also applied to Soviet citizens of German ethnicity who, following their repatriation from Germany, had been sent to special settlements. However, property confiscated during their deportation was not returned to them, nor were they granted the right to return to their places of origin.²

In September 1955, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR issued a decree granting amnesty to Soviet citizens who had collaborated with the occupiers during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945.³ On this basis, an amnesty was declared for Soviet citizens who, during the Great Patriotic War, had unwittingly become involved in collaboration with the occupiers or had served in the German army, police, and special German formations. Many Soviet servicemen who had been held as prisoners of war were released from administrative liability, provided that they had atoned for their guilt through subsequent patriotic activities in the service of the Motherland.

¹ См. об этом: О снятии ограничений по спецпоселению с бывших кулаков и других лиц : постановление Совета министров СССР от 13 авг. 1954 г. № 1738-789 сс // Электронная библиотека исторических документов. URL: <https://docs.historyrussia.org/ru/nodes/425507-postanovlenie-soveta-ministrov-sssr-locale-nil-o-snyatii-ogranicheniy-po-spetsposeleniyu-s-byvshih-kulakov-i-drugih-lits-locale-4> (дата обращения: 12.12.2025).

² См. об этом: О снятии ограничений в правовом положении с немцев и членов их семей, находящихся на спецпоселении : указ Президиума Верховного Совета СССР от 13 дек. 1955 г. // Ведомости Верховного Совета СССР. 1955. № 52.

³ См. об этом: Об амнистии советских граждан, сотрудничавших с оккупантами в период Великой Отечественной войны 1941—1945 гг. : указ Президиума Верховного Совета СССР от 17 сент. 1955 г. // Реабилитация: как это было : документы Президиума ЦК КПСС и другие материалы : в 3 т. Т. 1. М. : МФД, 2000. С. 259—260.

During the second half of the 1950s, rehabilitation issues were addressed in parallel with the prosecutor's office and the courts by newly established commissions, created in March 1956 and operating under the auspices of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Their work was more active, thoughtful and focused compared to their predecessors. In particular, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR proposed to recommend that party, Soviet, trade union, Komsomol and economic organizations completely eliminate existing restrictions on former prisoners of war and members of their families. The Ministries of Justice of all Union republics and the Prosecutor's Office of the USSR were instructed, during the review of court cases involving former servicemen of the Soviet Army and Navy, to identify and rehabilitate all those who had fallen into captivity under combat conditions (as a result of severe injury) and had been unjustly convicted as traitors of the Motherland. It was recommended to submit for state awards former prisoners of war who had been injured or had escaped from captivity but had not previously received government decorations.

The review of such cases proceeded very actively. For each case, a specific decision was issued, depending on numerous factors – in particular, the circumstances of capture, the degree of involvement in national military formations, the presence of awards received during combat operations, and the existence or absence of incriminating materials. The commissions could issue a range of decisions: rehabilitation; denial of rehabilitation; termination of the case; amnesty; reduction of the sentence; release from special settlement; or maintaining the penalty previously imposed by the court.

June 1956 secret Resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR “On eliminating the consequences of gross violations of the law in relation to former prisoners of war and members of their families”¹ it stated that during the war and in the post-war period there were gross violations of Soviet legality against military personnel of the Soviet Army and Navy who were captured or surrounded by the enemy. However, the document said nothing about encouraging military personnel who made a heroic escape from captivity or showed examples of courage and perseverance during their period of captivity.

State measures aimed at improving the social situation of rehabilitated persons. Individuals released from places of deprivation of liberty or from special settlements in 1954–1955 were deprived of the right to have their confiscated property returned. Between 1955 and 1964, a set of new regulatory legal acts was adopted, aimed at improving the social status of rehabilitated individuals. Of great significance for the fates of Soviet citizens was the resolution of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union) “On Work Seniority, Employment, and Pension Provision for Citizens Unjustly Subjected to Criminal Prosecution and Later Rehabilitated”, dated September 8, 1955. Firstly, the total work time of people who were unjustifiably prosecuted and subsequently released from criminal punishment or acquitted by the court included the

¹ См.: Об устранении последствий грубых нарушений законности в отношении бывших военнопленных и членов их семей : постановление ЦК КПСС и Совета Министров СССР от 29 июня 1956 г. № 898-490 // Сборник законодательных и нормативных актов о репрессиях и реабилитации жертв политических репрессий. М. : Республика, 1993. С. 139—142.

time they spent in places of detention or in special settlements. Secondly, length of service began to be taken into account when assigning benefits and pensions (including increased pensions and pensions for length of service). When establishing official salaries, depending on the length of service in a specialty, bonuses or percentage bonuses were paid for length of service. Thirdly, old-age pensions were assigned regardless of whether these citizens worked after their release from prison, exile, or eviction.¹

On July 14, 1956, the law “On State Pensions” was adopted, guaranteeing pension coverage for all workers regardless of whether they had been subjected to repression. Based on this regulatory legal document, uniform criteria for pension assignment were established: age (60 years for men, 55 years for women), work seniority (25 years for men, 20 years for women), and average monthly wage. In cases of disability pensions resulting from work-related injuries or occupational diseases, age and work experience were not taken into account.

Restrictions remained on compensation for property lost both during the war and in the post-war period. For example, resolutions “On the procedure for making settlements for the reimbursement of rehabilitated citizens for the value of property seized from them” of 12 November 1956, “On the procedure for the return to rehabilitated citizens of amounts of confiscated deposits” of 12 November 1956, “On the procedure for reimbursement rehabilitated citizens of the value of property confiscated under the verdicts of military tribunals” dated November 28, 1958 and others did not significantly improve the material and financial situation of rehabilitated persons. [3, p. 20]

If monetary compensation was paid to those rehabilitated, it was only once in the amount of two months’ salary, and not from the state budget, but from the funds of the enterprise where the rehabilitated person worked (if this enterprise still existed at all at the time of rehabilitation). Monetary compensation was paid if the property was sold or lost. Its estimated value (not always market value) was compensated at the time of seizure of property from a citizen. However, property that became the property of the state legally, or was destroyed during the war, was not returned, and its value was not compensated. [4 ; 5, p. 32–40]

By Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of August 12, 1994, No. 926 was approved “Regulations on the procedure for returning to citizens property illegally confiscated, confiscated or otherwise withdrawn from possession in connection with political repression, compensation for its value or payment of monetary compensation”.² The provision applied to citizens who were victims of political repression, including citizens who were forcibly resettled as part of repressed peoples, against whom illegal actions were committed for political reasons. Reimbursement of the cost property was produced in cases where the property

¹ The resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR was drawn up on the same day, September 8, 1955 for No. 1655 with stamp “Not for printing”. Its text was published later. See: Сборник законодательных и нормативных актов о репрессиях и реабилитации жертв политических репрессий. М. : Республика, 1993. С. 168—170.

² См.: Положение о порядке возврата гражданам незаконно конфискованного, изъятого или вышедшего иным путем из владения в связи с политическими репрессиями имущества, возмещения его стоимости или выплаты денежной компенсации : утв. постановлением Правительства Российской Федерации от 12 авг. 1994 г. № 926 // КонсультантПлюс. URL: https://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_4292/d198a1defb16f84a63e01466d892 (дата обращения: 14.11.2025).

was preserved. Monetary compensation was paid if the fact of confiscation of property was established.

Issues of returning confiscated property, compensating its value or paying monetary compensation to rehabilitated persons were considered by commissions for restoring the rights of rehabilitated victims of political repression, which established the fact of confiscation of property, determined the nature of this property (name, quantity, condition, amount of seized funds, deposits, value bonds, etc.).

Rehabilitation process in the 1960s – 1990s. In the mid-1950s, rehabilitation was a well-organized, planned program. However, by the mid-1960s, the country saw a change in political priorities. Russian researchers, including historians and jurists, have characterized this period by a sharp decline in the number of rehabilitation cases being processed, largely due to the scaling back of the rehabilitation process itself. [6, p. 92–99]

Most researchers agree that the main stage of rehabilitation occurred in the late 1980s, 1990s – early 2000s. According to A. G. Petrov, in the late 1980s the fact of political repression in our country was officially recognized. In 1987, the Politburo Commission of the CPSU Central Committee for Rehabilitation was formed. The development of a new legislative framework concerning the rehabilitation process began on October 18, 1991, the Supreme Council of the RSFSR adopted a law “On the rehabilitation of victims of political repression”¹, the purpose of which was not only to rehabilitate persons, but also to restore their civil rights, and also to pay partial compensation to them for material and moral damage. [7]

Since the early 1990s, resolving issues of rehabilitation of citizens was entrusted to the internal affairs bodies at the place of application of repression. This rule, established by the order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RSFSR dated December 11, 1991 for No. 218 “On the tasks of internal affairs bodies to ensure the rehabilitation of victims of political repression”, is observed to this day. This regulatory document became one of the first departmental acts aimed at implementing the Law of the RSFSR “On the rehabilitation of victims of political repression” of October 18, 1991. It established the procedure for the work of internal affairs bodies in receiving applications, checking cases, preparing conclusions and issuing certificates of rehabilitation for victims of political repression. The functions of checking materials, searching for archival files and issuing certificates of rehabilitation were assigned to information centers and archives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for territories and regions. The order provided a mechanism for transferring archival files from the KGB/MVD, checking them and issuing certificates to rehabilitated persons or their relatives necessary to receive benefits and compensation.²

¹ О реабилитации жертв политических репрессий : Закон Российской Федерации от 18 окт. 1991 г. № 1761-1 // КонсультантПлюс. URL: https://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_1619/ (дата обращения: 13.12.2025).

² Order No. 218 of 11.12.1991 became invalid and its provisions were replaced by subsequent instructions of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, in particular see: Об утверждении Инструкции о порядке исполнения органами внутренних дел Российской Федерации Закона Российской Федерации «О реабилитации жертв политических репрессий» : приказ Министерства внутренних дел Российской Федерации от 17 окт. 2005 г. № 834 // Официальный интернет-портал правовой информации. URL: http://pravo.gov.ru/proxy/ips/?doc_itself=&backlink=1&nd=102103504&page=1&rdk=1#10 (дата обращения: 20.12.2025).

In the following years, the procedure for enforcing the Law was updated multiple times through new orders issued by the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs including MIA Order No. 834 (October 17, 2005), which superseded earlier instructions. Today, this order is recognized as a historical document that established the basis for archival efforts and legal work aimed at restoring the rights of those who had been repressed.

In Russian regions, corresponding orders were issued, groups were created that grew into rehabilitation departments to consider appeals from citizens searching for archival documents proving the use of repression. In 1991, rehabilitation commissions were formed under the Departments of Internal Affairs of Russian Territories and Regions.

In 1991–1999 – rehabilitation departments at the IC of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for territories and regions and commissions recorded the largest flow of citizens' requests for rehabilitation of both themselves and their relatives. According to one of the heads of the Rehabilitation Department, internal affairs bodies in the country during this period issued more than 1 million archival certificates about the length of time repressed persons were under the supervision of the Internal Affairs Departments (IAD), about the confiscation and seizure of property during repressions, confirming other types of repressions.

In the 1990s, the final records of regional commissions and departments were gathered in the Information Centre of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs. This rich archive brought together not only summary reports from regional rehabilitation offices, but also details about citizens undergoing rehabilitation: the number of applications filed and data on rehabilitation certificates issued (or denied) to former Soviet POWs, soldiers who had served in German military units, and related cases. [2, p. 165]

As N.F. Bugai reports, in 1994 alone authorities processed 3 514 applications from former Soviet POWs and civilians, issuing 1 795 rehabilitation certificates and denying 633 cases. In 1995, officials reviewed 2 998 applications, granting 1 368 and rejecting 584 rehabilitation requests. [2, p. 166, 172] According to A.G. Petrov's data from MIA, GUVd and UVD information Centre's across Russian regions, 234 463 rehabilitation applications (for victims of administrative political repression) were pending in 2005. That year, 141 107 applications were processed – a 9% increase compared to 2004. [8]

Documentary base Department of Rehabilitation and Information of Information Centers of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia. From the middle of the last century to the present, the main documentary base created in the Rehabilitation and Information Departments of the information centers of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in each subject of the Russian Federation to resolve issues of rehabilitation are the "Fund for Personal Affairs of Special Settlers" and card indexes. In the Kemerovo region, for example, this fund includes 135.000 storage units. Personal files include both a standard set of documents that were deposited in the 1940s – 1950s, and modern ones related to rehabilitation. The first group – is certificates; interrogation protocols; autobiographies; materials justifying the referral to a special settlement; filtering materials; certificates of marks in the special commandant's office; certificates of a special settler, member of the Resistance; information about awards; materials about

changing a first or last name, about finding relatives; newspaper clippings or newspapers; photographs; correspondence with the NKVD-MVD, party and government officials; statements letters of appeal or petitions (as well as the results of appeals) in order to confirm one's innocence and heroic past, to prove the illegality of the application of punishment.¹

The second package of documents, relating directly to the rehabilitation of a person and members of his family, includes written appeals from citizens and an archival certificate containing a short set of information about the person being rehabilitated, the time and circumstances of sending to a special settlement, the period of his release and the final decision on recognition of rehabilitation or refusal in it.

In the 2000s, automated thematic databases were established within the Departments of Rehabilitation and Information under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation at the regional and provincial levels. Among these databases are the "Database of Citizens Applications and Inquiries Regarding Rehabilitation" and the "Rehabilitated Individuals" database. For example, in the Kemerovo region by 2018, there were 350 thousand applications and requests from citizens for rehabilitation were entered into the Databases (DB), in the Novosibirsk region about 500 000. Card indexes of persons of various nationalities and categories of operational registration located in a special settlement (cards, automated database) help to obtain the opportunity to consider the issue of rehabilitation, establish or confirm kinship. Information in databases and file cabinets is constantly updated.

There are other types of sources that allow citizens to prove the need to rehabilitate their relatives. For example, verification and filtration cases. In a number of Russian regions, they were transferred from the archives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to regional and regional state archives. However, citizens' access to these materials is difficult. In the 1950s personal matters² they were transferred to the place of birth or residence of a person who was in a special settlement, or transferred to the archives of the FSB (archival and investigative cases, formula cases). However, some of the cases remained in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, where the person was in a special settlement, so in the Information Centers you can get instructions in which archive to look for a personal file and, therefore, apply for a solution to the issue of rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation procedure and conditions. Rehabilitation of citizens sent administratively to a special settlement was carried out earlier and continues to be carried out on an application basis. The provision of archival information is carried out free of charge. Relatives of victims of political repression can familiarize themselves with the personal files of Russian citizens.

Typically, applicants should contact the Information Centre of the constituent entity of the Russian Federation where the individual was placed in special settlement – these institutions hold the relevant card files of

¹ Since 2006, access to this type of documents has been possible only to relatives who wish to familiarize themselves with the materials of their personal file in order to submit documents for rehabilitation or in case of refusal, but only upon their written request with documents confirming the degree of relationship attached.

² Personal files were registered for the special settlers starting since 1949.

special settlers. To a petition letter or application drafted in free form, the following documents must be attached:

- passport (copy);
- a power of attorney on behalf of the repressed person, issued in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of the Russian Federation, to familiarize his relatives with the information requested in relation to him; or a document (copy) confirming the fact of the repressed person's death;
- document (copy) confirming family relations with the repressed person. The basis for refusal to accept documents is the provision of documents that do not meet the above requirements.¹

Employees of rehabilitation departments consider applications from citizens, requests from public organizations, and various institutions related to:

- rehabilitation of persons who were subjected to political repression administratively; children who were with their parents in a special settlement, in exile, in prison, as well as those left without the care of one or both parents; unreasonably repressed and subsequently rehabilitated citizens;
- facts of confiscation, seizure, loss of property and other material damage caused in connection with repression for political reasons on an administrative basis;
- familiarization of rehabilitated persons who were previously repressed administratively, and with their consent or in the event of their death – relatives, with the materials of archival files;
- by making a decision on the use of repression and receiving copies (extracts of documents from these cases);
- receipt of manuscripts, photographs and other personal documents preserved in administrative and other archival files by rehabilitated persons, and with their consent or in the event of their death – by heirs;
- time, causes of death and burial place of persons administratively repressed for political reasons;
- checking compliance with the legislation of the Russian Federation of documents issued in states – former union republics of the USSR or former state bodies of the USSR on the rehabilitation of persons subjected to political repression;
- providing, at the request of state and public organizations, as well as citizens of states – former Soviet republics of the USSR – legal assistance in matters of rehabilitation (expulsion of archival certificates, extract from case documents on the facts of the use of repression, confiscation, seizure and loss of property).

After establishing the fact of the use of exile, expulsion, referral to a special settlement, involvement in forced labor under conditions of restriction of freedom or other restrictions on rights and freedoms, the internal affairs bodies draw up a conclusion and issue an archival certificate of rehabilitation or report a refusal of rehabilitation.

When reviewing the applicant's documents, employees of rehabilitation departments face a number of problems. Their work is seriously complicated by inaccuracies, discrepancies in the spelling of surnames, first names and patronymics, and often the selection and replacement of a first

¹ О реабилитации жертв политических репрессий: закон Российской Федерации от 18 окт. 1991 г. № 1761-1. Т. 7.

name, patronymic or surname with a Russian equivalent. For example, Genrikhovich – Andreevich, Ioganesovich – Ivanovich, Dorothea – Daria, Wilhelm – Vasily, Adolf – Arkady, Genrikh – Gennady, Berl – Boris, Gikken – Genkin). In the applicant's passport one name is indicated, but in the documents his personal file is listed differently.¹ The personal file of a special settler may not contain a translation of documents into Russian. There are not uncommon discrepancies in dates and place of birth in the autobiographies, questionnaires, certificates, and letters available in the personal file compared to the data provided to the archive by a person interested in rehabilitation.

Even discrepancies in one or more letters in first names, patronymics and surnames, or in dates, led and continue to lead to the impossibility of making a positive decision on rehabilitation. In such cases, employees of information centers are required to confirm the relationship or establish the identity of the citizen who applied for rehabilitation. In some cases, this is very difficult to do and, in this case, rehabilitation is denied.

Since the late 1990s, for example, relatives of the person involved in the case were denied rehabilitation due to the lack of materials confirming the relationship. Since after a person left for his homeland, his personal file was sent for him and handed over to the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs at his place of new residence, then after the collapse of the USSR, people had to apply to new states to obtain a certificate of rehabilitation. Often applications were submitted simultaneously to different states. As a result, a person could be rehabilitated twice or denied rehabilitation in both countries. Subsequently, this could have caused the decision on rehabilitation to be canceled altogether.

An important factor in making decisions on rehabilitation since the 1990s, there was and remains compliance with the legislation (conclusion on the compliance of the article) of the Russian Federation and another state of the post-Soviet space. For example, if the application was considered by the prosecutor's office of Kazakhstan, or the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova, or Belarus, then the conclusion on rehabilitation was issued by these authorities. At the same time, the decision on the younger generation, or on children born, for example, in Siberia, was made on the basis of certificates of rehabilitation of their parents on the basis of Russian legislation. Rehabilitation could be refused if a person participated in various nationalist formations of the Wehrmacht.

Nevertheless, the decision made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs to refuse to issue a certificate of rehabilitation could and can be appealed in the manner prescribed by the Law of the Russian Federation for No. 4866-1 of April 27, 1993 "On appealing to the courts actions and decisions that violate the rights and freedoms of citizens".

Currently, the procedure for providing information on the personal files of special settlers can be found on the websites of information centers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. Copies of documents confirming the degree of relationship and identification documents should be attached to the letter of petition, drawn up in any form.

¹ A number of personal files contain interrogation protocols, orders, as well as statements from the special settlers themselves, which attempt to eliminate discrepancies in surnames that arise when filling out official documents.

Thus, the rehabilitation of Soviet citizens – is a complex and multifaceted process. The active process of rehabilitation of Soviet citizens that began in the mid-1950s has important historical significance not only in the official recognition of the illegality of the persecution of Soviet citizens, but also in the restoration of social justice, their civil rights, and good name.

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