



In the first half of the 1930s, the Soviet regime prepared the ground for centralization and total control in public administration structures and public institutions. From 1936, mass repressions of citizens, who were not loyal to the Soviet Union, began.

To create an ideological and propaganda framework, the regime used the murder of one of the Communist Party leaders, Sergei Kirov, in 1934, most likely performed for a different reason, as an act of "counter-revolutionary" conspiracy and a terrorist attack on the Soviet state. During this period, legislative frameworks and legal procedures began to be prepared, simplified and adjusted for the future major "cleansing".

At the same time, in 1936, a new constitution was approved in the USSR, which stated that in the Soviet state - socialism was achieved, and civil rights and freedom was guaranteed. At the same time, a detailed plan of arresting and destroying certain number of people in all republics was developed and instructions for secret mass shootings were given.

For the first time, beginning from the end of 1936, the upper echelons of the Communist Party began to clean up the remnants of the opposition forces. At the same time, the surviving members of the anti-Soviet movement were targeted, and in the summer of 1937, the regime launched large-scale cleansing operations - in the countryside, in the peasantry, in the Red Army, in the communist party ranks and in all state structures.

The regime determined the fate of the victims in a simplified, conveyor rule. The campaign of repression involved almost all courts and law enforcement agencies - the superior and local courts, the tribunals of the army and the "Shinsakhsom" (People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs), and the largest-scale so-called "Troika" - a special trio at the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs.

In 1936-1938, "demonstration trials" were held in Moscow and most of the united republics of USSR for ideological influence on the population. The state was accusing specialists in various fields of organizing "counter-revolutionary conspiracies", spying for foreign countries, implementing and planning of terrorist acts, etc. People who were physically and psychologically destroyed by the repressive machine "sincerely confessed" the crime at the show court and asked for forgiveness. At the same time, the regime organized demonstrations of "workers' collectives" and collected petitions of citizens demanding the ruthless punishment and destruction of the accused people. Information about the shooting of those taken to the trial court was also broadcasted publicly on the radio and published in the papers.

The fate of the most of the detainees was decided unjustly by the "Troika" - without the right of the accused to attend, defend or appeal. Physical and verbal abuse, a variety of inhumane methods of torture, were widely accepted and formally allowed during the investigation to gain recognition.

The Troika verdict was standard in 99% of cases - shooting and confiscation of personal property or deportation to the Gulag for 10 years - in a network of forced labor camps concentrated throughout the Soviet Union, especially in Siberia, Central Asia, in a far North and the East. The decision was always effectuated immediately - by default the

same night, or within a few days. To cover up the mass death penalty, the regime mostly informed family members just verbally that the prisoner had been "deported for 10 years, in solitary chamber - without the right to correspond." In the following years, the system appropriated and owned parcels and money sent for people who have been declared "deported" and had already been shot. During this period, there was a closed network of "special trade", where the party nomenclature and the security service distributed at a symbolic price the property confiscated from prisoners and convicts.

The regime also implemented an additional repression against members of the families of the victims of the Great Terror: the mass murder of spouses of deported people, on the grounds of "not reporting the crime." In the Gulag - there were separate camps for women set up: for "family members of the enemy of the people". Children orphaned by repressed parents were transferred to special "orphanages", which were, in fact, isolated colonies.

The number of victims in the Georgian SSR - reached 20-25 000 people. More than half of them were shot, and the rest were deported to the Gulag system for 8-10 years. Total arrests and destruction, widespread fear and mistrust have caused great trauma to society, but the harsh reality was preparing for the coming - unprecedented global catastrophe in the form of the World War II.

Tengiz Abuladze described "Red Terror" in Soviet Georgia in the 1930s in the film "Repentance", which was made in 1984 and became one of the most important films of the 80s.

The action in the film begins in the Soviet Georgia and the author, with his characteristic poetic style, brings to life the years of "Great Terror" of the 1930s. Varlam Aravidze, a high-ranking official in the Soviet

government, conducted répressions and sacrificed innocent people to death. Years later, Ketevan Barateli, the child of a family, which was destroyed by him, decides to take revenge and exhume the dead Varlam from the grave. At the trial, a young woman manifests Varlam's dark past. Understanding the path taken by the ancestor, aggravated by sins, will lead Aravidze's grandson, Tornike, to a sharp conflict with his father. The desperate young man chooses an extreme form of protest and commits suicide. In the film, the role of Varlam's grandson Tornike, initially played by an actor Gega Kobakhidze, was replaced by Merab Ninidze after his arrest in connection with the "Boys on a Plane" case.

Filming "Repentance" was accompanied by many difficulties. Tengiz Abuladze started working on the script of the film in 1981, the script was created in two years, the shooting was completed in 1984, but the viewers saw it only in 1986. It is a well-known fact that Tengiz Abuladze, with the help of Eduard Shevardnadze, the first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party, managed to create a film in Tbilisi and Batumi in a conspiracy under the name of a TV film. Later on, the advice of same person, film deliberately "entered the shelf" for several years.

For people living in the Soviet Union whose ancestors were victims of the bloody terror of the 1930s, the film was really painful and emotional. The aim of the director was to "rethink" the past, the screen face of actor Avto Makharadze - Varlam Aravidze, became a face assembling the tyranny and evil, in which Stalin, Beria, Hitler and Mussolini are to be recognized with equal success ...

