

## **Proposal of a pan-European memorial to the victims of totalitarianism in Brussels**

### **No. 2**

This memorial is a piety for the victims of totalitarian regimes and a memento of the fact that people should never give up their own inner authority and surrender it to an outer force (in this case to a political regime).

Totalitarianism makes people unfree and separates them from their inner potential, which is symbolically represented by the grid placed horizontally between the sky and the Earth, which casts a shadow on the person beneath it. Looking up, in contrast with the brightness of the sky, the person perceives only the darkness of the grid, which prevents him from seeing the details of this shadow-casting object.

The square grid is standing on pillars placed in its corners - there are only three however, one corner is free. The description of the memorial is placed on the middle pillar, turned toward the free corner in such a way that one has to approach it through the free corner of the memorial. The free corner symbolically depicts that it is difficult to define and see in time the border of the entry under the direct influence of totalitarianism.

By entering under the grid, the viewer enters into direct interaction with the memorial, making it perceivable that totalitarianism is a current topic which concerns us through the past which we have not come to terms with, through the persisting threat of a renewal of totalitarian thoughts as well as the tragedy of current totalitarian regimes in the world.

The memorial should have the approximate dimensions of 4.5 x 4.5 x 4.5 metres. The entire construction should be made of a dark, almost black metal. The artist realising the memorial can adjust the surface of the construction in an irregular way, for example by hammering, creating smaller holes in the surface or in another way. The base should be white, or at least pale coloured, so that the shadows stand out. In order to lead the viewer intuitively to enter toward the description under the construction through the space without the pillar, I propose to place low pegs joined by a chain along the two sides which come together in the corner with the description.

**Anna Korbašová**