

Tina Daschko

TD - Until 1933, people resisted, and they deported them. After the Famine, nobody resisted, they only whispered among themselves; they were afraid. They were afraid of being deported, because if you were deported, you would never come back. This was simply cruelty against these peoples. The worst devastation was in 1932-33. Because in 1932, whatever people still had, whatever little they had earned, lasted until Christmas, and after Christmas, everyone was just trying to survive somehow, until the new [crop] came. The worst was in 1933, from Christmas, until spring. During Easter, there were some people, including my mother, that had the [last] tiny bit of grain, tiny bit of potatoes - to bake the *paska*[Easter bread], and bless it. The priest was still [in the village]. They baked the *paska*, my sisters took the basket, not everyone, because some people couldn't anymore, and many had died already, they took the *paska* to be blessed. The priest, Father Paletsky, began the Easter service, and right away the NKVD came from the town, from 10 km away. They had been waiting; they came and right away they ripped his vestments off, and took him away. Everyone scattered, my sisters came home, and told my mother, "there's a terrible trial - Paletsky was taken away, his vestments were torn off." This was Easter, 1933.

In the spring of 1933 they planted peas right by the village, not far from our [home]. When children saw that peas had been sown, they came to collect the peas. The guard came and [beat] the children with a club. Those poor children began to scream and run away, some couldn't even run yet, and he was beating them so that they wouldn't collect the peas. And I was there, and I got hit with the club on the back and neck. Yes, in 1933 when they sowed the peas those children tried to save themselves by eating those peas.