

Zedelgem wants 'Latvian Bijenkorf' who honors SS soldiers gone, but even Latvian ministers interfere: "Severe insult"



The controversial "Bijenkorf".

The fact that the municipality of Zedelgem wants to remove the controversial monument for SS soldiers from Latvia is heating up tempers. The Latvian Minister of Defense even addressed a letter to his Belgian colleague Ludivine Dedonder (PS): the removal "will be interpreted as a very serious insult and humiliation of the Latvian people".

Today at 03:00



The artwork dates from 2018 and pays tribute to the Latvian soldiers during the Second World War. But they had served in SS uniform on the Eastern Front, and some had previously been involved in the persecution of the Jews in their own country. Zedelgem asked for and received advice from a panel of historians: it is hurtful and inappropriate.

In Latvia there is a view that the Latvian SS did not collaborate with Nazism, but were freedom-loving patriots against the Soviet Union. Even the Latvian government intervenes, with the letter from the Latvian Minister of Defence and a press release in its own country: "misunderstood political correctness", it is called there. Our Minister of Foreign Affairs Sophie Wilmès (MR) is holding off the boat: this is a municipal competence. (mr)



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