

Wira Kanareisky

WK - In the village many people died at that time. I can't say how many, and who, but there was our family, they were my cousins. Although we were dekulakized, my mother always managed to hide a little something, even further away from the village. Grain, or corn, or something. And she would bring it in a little bag in her pockets, so that nobody would see or know. So she cooked the corn and we ate it. We were children, and we didn't chew it very well, excuse me for saying, and we went where we needed to go [to the restroom]. The KGB [NKVD] came and said, "you have bread, you have [food] hidden." "No, we don't have anything hidden." "What do you mean, no? Let's go." So outside there was an outhouse, we didn't have the luxuries we have today. [The NKVD agent] said, "So, who did this - the chickens, or the neighbours? It was your children." They took us away, I can't say how long they held us, but they didn't give us food, just water to drink. While our stomachs were emptying, [the rest] of the corn came out. And they declared my mother an Enemy of the People.

Interviewer - What does this mean?

WK - A thief of state property. Enemy of the People. They took my mother away from us, but didn't take her out of the village, they locked her up in the village. She asked them to bring us to her, that she wanted to see us, myself and my brother. And when we came, I only remember that mother was laying there, and asked me to come closer. I came up to her, she stroked my head, and held my hand, and I don't remember any more. After that I never saw mother again, because she died [soon after].