

From:

<http://www.delfi.lt/news/daily/world/article.php?id=25705693>

BNS

November 14, 2009 10:11 A.M.

208 comments

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Israel's president Shimon Peres believes that the crimes committed by the regimes of Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin of Germany and the Soviet Union shouldn't be compared. "But I don't think that Hitler and Stalin and their crimes need to be compared," the leader of Israel was quoted as saying in the newspaper Lietuvos Rytas.

According to the president of Israel, Stalin did one useful thing: he contributed in the overthrow of the Nazis during WWII, and that the brutality of the leader of the Soviet Union was perhaps necessary in wartime.

"But nonetheless I could say one thing in Stalin's favor: he defeated Hitler, and Russia's role in winning the Second World War was great. The Russians paid a terrible price in this war and perhaps it was under those circumstances that Stalin's brutality was necessary. Therefore I don't rush to judge him," Peres said.

According to the leader of Israel, the crimes of Nazism and Stalinism are also incomparable because, Peres says, many more people were killed due to Hitler than to Stalin.

"There were concentration camps in Russia, but there were no gas chambers. Over many decades Jews did many important things in the life of Russia and were forced to assimilate, to become Communists. It's not a pleasure for me to talk about how six million Jews were annihilated. But Hitler's madness cost the world sixty million lives with another two hundred million wounded, crippled people. No other madman in the history of the world has ever done so much physical and intellectual damage," Peres said.