

## Lithuania honours its Nazis

### Holocaust Relativisation as National Objective: Fascist Collaborators to Be Celebrated as >>Freedom Fighters<< on the Seventieth Anniversary of the German Attack.

By Frank Brendle

(Translation from the original German <http://www.jungewelt.de/2011/08-24/008.php> authorised by Rachel Croucher)



*Neo-fascists March Through Vilnius on 11 March, Lithuania's Independence Day.  
Photo: Sebastian Pamer, Vienna*

The 70th anniversary of the German attack on the Soviet Union serves as a backdrop to nationalist efforts in Lithuania. In the process, extreme right-wing militias who initiated an uprising against the Red Army at the beginning of the war are being portrayed as >>Freedom Fighters<<, the Holocaust is being relativised, and collaboration with the Nazis glossed over.

The main objective of official *Geschichtspolitik*, or politics of history, is the portrayal of the >>Lithuanian Activist Front<< (LAF), who organised the uprising in June 1941, as an honourable patriotic organisation. An important contribution to this portrayal in time for the anniversary on 22 June was >>Uprising of the Enslaved<<, presented as a documentary, the premiere of which was attended by numerous prominent politicians. Parliament has paid tribute to the state-sponsored film for being >>an important contribution to Lithuanian culture, history and patriotism<<. The film only features the victims of the Soviet crimes of 1940/41 but remains completely silent on the >>Freedom Fighters<< of the LAF, whose leadership resided in Berlin, and who were associated with anti-Semitic pogroms and murder from day one. Later on, shooting squads for the Germans were made from former LAF backup units. An exhibition which is currently being shown at the Technical University likewise serves to whitewash the actions of this squad.

At a meeting of the Lithuanian Parliament which took place at the end of June former head of state Vytautas Landsbergis paid tribute to the uprising of 1941 as being a form of national awakening which paved the way to independence fifty years later. This was reported by Yiddish professor and observer of the meeting, Dovid Katz, on his homepage DefendingHistory.com. An employee of state-sponsored Genocide Research Centre - who also supported the aforementioned film - completely denies any participation of the LAF in

pogroms: a claim solely made by >>Jewish historians<< without any evidence for it. In recent years researchers have in fact documented considerable evidence of [these claims]. The Genocide Research Centre is supposed to investigate both Soviet and Nazi crimes.

In actual fact it's purely all about equalisation. The Centre speaks in a twisted Orwellian language about a >>Soviet genocide of the Lithuanian people<< needing to be researched. One of its employees, Ricardas Cekutis, made the headlines earlier this year after taking part in a neo-Nazi march in Vilnius on Independence Day, as did a member of the ruling Homeland Union. Both marched among swastika flags which are permitted in Lithuania. Cekutis works in the >>Special Investigations Division<<. One has to wonder what he investigates there considering he regards the Holocaust as a >>myth<< invented in order to cash in on reparations. He declared this at the beginning of August in the daily newspaper *Lietuvos Rytas*. Cekutis, member of the >>Young Lithuania<< party, further announced: if World War II were to happen again >>we would undoubtedly be on the German side<<.

It has also recently become known that the >>Union of Lithuanian Nationalist Youth<< receives government funds. Among other things that are funded are a youth camp which stands under the motto >>Thank God (or the gods) that I am white<<. >>Lithuania for Lithuanians<< is another popular slogan of the organisation. A spokesperson for the Institute for Human Rights used the incident as an opportunity to draw attention to an alarming change of political mood: radical nationalistic agitation is being increasingly perceived as >>a normal expression of democratic life<<.

The outcome was inevitable: at the beginning of July the Holocaust memorial at Paneriai was defaced by Nazis. Approximately 70,000 Jews were murdered in this Lithuanian suburb. The neo-Nazis sprayed swastikas on the memorial stones as well as obscene sayings and the slogan >>Hitler was right<<. The Simon Wiesenthal Centre drew the link: such defacements are >>almost understandable<< when the anti-Semitic murders by Lithuanian collaborators are dismissed as the findings of >>Jewish historians<< at a parliamentary meeting. The Lithuanian Antifa recently caused a stir by publishing photos of military personnel on their homepage who had posted photos on Facebook of tattoos of swastikas and Nazi symbols. The Minister of Defence played down the issue: tattoos were >>a private matter<<.

- **1 September, 6:30 PM, Berlin: Event hosted by the Education Institute of the *Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft - Vereinigte Kriegsdienstgegnerinnen* (German Peace Society - United Opponents of War) with the former partisan Fania Brantsovsky and historian Christoph Dieckmann.**
- **3 September, 5 PM, Berlin: Event with Dovid Katz and Gerd Wiegel. Both events to be hosted at the >> Place of Information<< at the Holocaust Memorial, Cora-Berliner-Straße 1, Berlin, <http://www.bildungswerk-friedensarbeit.org>**