

## **Chronology of Events Related to the Erection of the Memorial to the Jewish population of Bauska (at 35B Rigas iela, Bauska)**

### **Phase I – before signing the Land Lease Contract**

- 1) In 2006, Vaira Vike-Freiberga (*Vaira Viķe-Freiberga*), the President of Latvia, endorsed the idea of erecting a Memorial to the Jewish Population of Bauska in the place of the synagogue that was burned down in July of 1941.
- 2) Collection of donations was initiated to implement the project (mainly in Israel and USA).
- 3) The Land Lease Contract was signed on 01.07.2007 with the aim to use the plot for the erection of the monument to the Jewish Community that had been slaughtered during the Holocaust.

### **Phase II – after signing the Land Lease Contract and before the occurrence of the ‘stalemate’**

- 1) The architectural design and planning assignment for the concept engineering of the historical memorial to the Jewish Population of Bauska (*Bauskas ebreju vēstures memoriāls*) was received by the Bauska City Construction Administration on 28.05.2008 (that is before the reform of the local governments).
- 2) Commencement of the concept engineering. The pre-design project was ready in accordance with the pre-design phase.
- 3) The Bauska Regional Construction Administration agreed and coordinated the installation of new electric cables on this plot that had been leased to the lease holder and did not notify the latter thereof. The cables were installed.
- 4) The Commission for Monument Protection gave its positive opinion on the pre-design project.
- 5) 2009 and the beginning of 2010. The Head of the Bauska Regional Construction Administration, Mr. Paklons, in his negotiations with the designers ‘cavilled’ at the design documentation and advised for the monument to be at a cemetery instead of in the city centre.
- 6) On 21.04.2010, Bauska Construction Administration refused to prolong the Land Lease Contract justifying it by the fact that the plot was in an area that was not envisaged for the erection of monuments in accordance with the city development plan.
- 7) On 12.05.2010, the Jewish Community Council appealed against the illegal refusal to prolong the leasehold to Bauska Regional Council.
- 8) On 22.07.2010, Bauska Regional Council overruled the decision of the Bauska Regional Construction Administration and prolonged the leasehold.

- 9) The society of Bauska and the press published statements of some members of Bauska Regional Council against the erection of the memorial and pointed out that it would be better to build up a library on that place.
- 10) On 12.10.2010, the designers, in reply to the subsequent documents submitted for coordination of the design, received a letter from the Bauska Regional Construction Administration titled as follows: On the sketch design for the erection of the monument. In the aforementioned letter the Construction Administration pointed out the new requirements for coordination of the design (the procedure does not envisage any such actions at this phase) because of the following reasons: the issue of moving the installed electrical cables at the expense of the leaseholder must be settled for coordination of the design; as the Head of the Construction Administration understands it was planned to erect only a stele but not a memorial which is too big as offered by the designers; public discussions of the design must take place.
- 11) On 13.11.2011, the Jewish Community Council appealed against the received document that contained 'new requirements' to the Bauska Regional Council as the design process did not envisage any public discussions at this phase, and the 'new requirements' were created with a clear aim to bring the memorial design to a stalemate. At the same time, the Jewish Community Council asked Bauska Regional Council to discharge Mr. Paklons, or at least to suspend him from resolving any issues on the monument documentation on the reason of his obvious counteraction against the memorial design, his legal incompetence, illegal actions and malversation.
- 12) During the two sessions of Bauska Regional Council, in November 2010 and on 24.02.2011, it considered and satisfied the claim, i.e. Bauska Regional Council acknowledged that the actions of Mr. Paklons were illegal and formed a board of experts to evaluate the design documentation of the customer. During the consideration of the issue some of the Council members did not hide their attitude to the project and oppose the idea of the monument erection with an argument that it would be better to build up a library on this place but the monument should be better erected on a cemetery (and not on the place of the burned down synagogue).
- 13) On 28.02.2011, taking in account the negative attitude of Bauska Regional Council to the project, the Jewish Community Council asked the Republic of Latvia President's Office for a support, as well as pointed out the anti-Semitic attitude in Bauska Regional Council and the supposed obstacles in the design promotion.
- 14) On 29.03.2011, the designers received a letter from the director of the National Inspection for Protection of Cultural Monuments in relation to the prepared design documentation which informed about the compliance of the design documentation and the type of the memorial to the requirements on the protection of monuments.
- 15) On 09.03.2011, the board of experts, that had been appointed instead of Bauska Regional Construction Administration to consider the design documentation, made a conclusion that in their opinion (in spite of the opinion of the National Inspection for Protection of Cultural Monuments) the appearance of the monument does not match the city and is too large despite it officially is in compliance with the received architectural design and planning assignment.
- 16) On 28.04.2011, on the ground of the conclusion of the board of expert dated 09.03.2011, Bauska Regional Council acting as the local government (instead of the Head of the Construction Administration who had been suspended from resolving the issue) made a decision to refuse coordination and approval of the design

on the reason that the owner of the plot that was leased to the Jewish Community Council (i.e. Bauska Regional Council itself but not as the local government but as the owner of the plot) did not coordinate and approve the erection of the monument!  
The customer could not appeal against this action because this issue was transferred into the sphere of the private law.

- 17) Sluggish negotiations with Bauska Regional Council about possible compromises in resolving the issue started after the refusal dated 28.04.2011. Bauska Regional Council insisted on the construction of the library on the aforementioned plot but suggested to give any space in any room in the cellar to locate the monumental information.