Lithuania to rename Museum of Genocide Victims after lengthy discussions

After years of discussions and international criticism, Lithuania's politicians, state institutions and public organizations have agreed to change the name of the Museum of Genocide Victims located in the former KGB building in Vilnius.
The name of the museum, which mainly focuses on crimes committed by the Soviet regime, will no longer include the work genocide – it will be titled the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights in the future, according to a proposal to be shortly submitted to the Lithuanian parliament.

Critics often said that Lithuania's accent on the crimes committed by the Soviet rule as genocide downplayed the Jewish genocide by Nazi Germany, which Lithuanian collaborators also played a part in.
Teresė Birutė Burauskaitė, director general of the Genocide and Resistance Research Center of Lithuania, said the name of the museum did not match the content of the exposition.

"This is not a museum of victims only – it also presents other topics, including freedom fighters, dissidents, it tells about expressions and impact of the occupational regime. The concept of genocide has a narrower meaning," Burauskaitė told BNS.

In her words, Soviet deportations and massacres featured characteristics of genocide, however, the Holocaust was exceptional and "we cannot equal the threats faced by Lithuanians in Soviet-ruled Lithuania to the threats faced by Jews during the Nazi era."

Since 2010, the museum features a display on the Jewish Holocaust, however, is far smaller than that on Soviet crimes. In Burauskaitė’s words, if courts moved out of the building, the vacated premises would leave more room for a more detailed exposition of the period of Nazi occupation.
Lithuania under International Criticism

The museum is based in a building, which was built next to the central Lukiškiu Square more than 100 years ago. The building, which has served as home to various Lithuanian institutions, mainly courts, is mostly known among Lithuanians as a former KGB building.

Discussions about the need to change the name of the museum have been in progress for about a decade, however, never reached the phase of parliamentary ballot.

Virgis Valentinavičius, associate professor at the Mykolas Romeris University who served as adviser to then prime minister Andrius Kubilius in 2009 -2012, said then right-wing government had come under criticism from Jewish organizations and their supporters over the name of the museum.

"The name looked bad on the international arena, as it gave an impression that the museum assigned the concept of genocide to the Lithuanian history of the area and ignored the Holocaust," Valentinavicius told BNS.

The name for the museum was only chosen after Lithuania regained independence from the Soviet Union in 1990. The museum features a photograph, portraying people standing outside the building with a slogan, saying This Will be the Lithuanian Genocide Museum. 1991.08.23. Sąjūdis of Lithuania.
Physicians have repeatedly criticized the use of acetaminophen in children, arguing that it can cause serious liver damage or death. The country's officials reject the criticism, saying acetaminophen has been widely used for decades without such adverse effects.

More than 90 percent of Lithuania's pre-war Jewish community of over 200,000 perished to the Nazis and their local collaborators during World War II.

According to data provided by the Genocide and Resistance Research Center of Lithuania, Lithuania lost over 700,000 residents due to the Soviet rule in 1940 -1952, including more than 400,000 who fled or repatriated, 275,000 who were deported, 25,000 killed in the front and 21,000 killed participants of resistance efforts, their families and supporters.
Lithuanian center unable to find specialist to calculate Soviet occupation damages - daily
The Lithuanian Genocide and Resistance Center has failed since the start of this year to find a...

Latvian experts to present documents proving Lithuania was Soviet Union's donor (1)
Latvian experts are expected to next week present an analysis of archival financial

Lithuanian's Jews appreciate German president's attention to Holocaust victims
As German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Friday plans to pay homage to the Holocaust

A response to the falsifiers of post-war history: the harsh truth about the life and death of the partisans
US scientists working in Lithuania to specify locations of Jewish graves

A group of scientists headed by archeology professor Richard Freund from the US Hartford University is working in Lithuania to specify locations of Jewish graves. This is part of a larger project to uncover the remains of Jewish gravesites that were destroyed during the Holocaust.

Society

Lithuania to rename Museum of Genocide Victims after lengthy discussions

After years of discussions and international criticism, Lithuania's politicians and state institutions have decided to rename the Museum of Genocide Victims in Lithuania. The museum, which has been controversial since its opening, will now be renamed to reflect a broader perspective on the country's history.

Two Lithuanian ex-MPs go on trial for picketing outside prosecutor’s home

The Vilnius Regional Court on Thursday started hearing a criminal case in which two former Lithuanian MPs are facing charges for picketing outside the home of a prosecutor. The case has sparked controversy in the country.

Bringing up children in 16-17th century Grand Duchy of Lithuania

The ways of bringing up children depended on the social status of a family in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Children from noble families were typically expected to learn the family business and take on responsibilities at a young age, while children from commoner families were often apprenticed or worked in the fields.

Papermaking in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania

Papermaking was an important industry in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and it played a significant role in the economy. Paper was used for a variety of purposes, including writing, printing, and packaging.
Health minister suggests legalizing outdoor daycare

A task force set up by the Lithuanian minister of health has prepared a draft to legalize outdoor...