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<http://www.delfi.lt/news/daily/lithuania/gsarafinas-kritikos-del-sakinio-apie-zydunaikinima-sulaukes-istorikas-neneigia-holokausto.d?id=38987877>

G. Sarafinas: Historian Criticized for Sentence about Destruction of Jews Doesn't Deny Holocaust

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Historian Petras Stankeras who was criticized for his thoughts about the destruction of the Jews during World War II never denied the Holocaust, and the misunderstanding arose because of one sentence which was misunderstood, *Veidas* senior editor Gintaras Sarafinas said.

"*Veidas* as a publication and Stankeras as an author have never in their lives denied the Holocaust, are not denying the Holocaust, and will not deny the Holocaust," Stankeras told BNS Thursday.

He said the scandal arose over one sentence that caused Stankeras to leave his job at the Interior Ministry.

Stankeras wrote: "It's also important that the Nuremberg process gave legal foundation to the legend of the 6 million supposedly murdered Jews, although this court had no document signed by A. Hitler on the destruction of Jews (this document, if it ever existed, hasn't been found by anyone to this day, although a million dollar reward has been promised)."

"He is fired for this one sentence, in principle. He raised the question because it was specifically stated there, and so it stands until today, that four million Jews were murdered, but he wrote about the legend about six

million. This is our mistake as editors, in that the word 'supposedly' [can also be translated 'allegedly'—trans.] was not in the correct place... Theoretically the word 'supposedly' should have been in a different place:

‘the legend of the supposedly 6 million Jews murdered’

This is a discussion about numbers in his article, not about denial of the Holocaust," the senior editor of the weekly explained.

Sarafinas said he met with the author of the article Thursday and that the author was very upset and didn't understand "what he had done wrong, having written an article about the Nuremberg process which doesn't have a single mention of the word 'Holocaust.'" He said the article could be interpreted in different ways but that Stankeras is a doctor of liberal arts who can be trusted.

"He didn't commit a crime, and if this now will be considered by the prosecutor as well, he will be punished several times," Sarafinas said.

Asked how he judged the author's words that the Nuremberg process was "clearly an unfair legal investigation," the editor said that is confirmed by a plethora of articles from abroad.

"There have been several hundred articles on this topic in the world media. Stankeras has them, and this wasn't the tabloid press, but rather the analytical press, and there they analyzed that this was victors' justice against the vanquished," Sarafinas explained. He said international law expert Dainius Zalimas himself confirmed to the editor that the jurisdiction of the Nuremberg Tribunal was to investigate the actions of the war criminals of Germany [not of other countries].

Sarafinas said the next issue of Veidas will explain the situation that has arisen and will apologize to people insulted by the statements [passage in original seems to have been omitted here] that didn't deny and won't deny, that confirm that no one ordered the article, that if people of Jewish ethnicity read this article and were insulted, we apologize to them," the

senior editor of Veidas said.

On Thursday ambassadors from seven European countries sent a letter to interior minister Raimundas Palaitis expressing dissatisfaction over the article and mentioned possible expressions of antisemitism in the country.

On Thursday Stankeras submitted a request to be relieved of his job. Stankeras had held the post of Senior Specialist at the Action Planning and Organization Department of the General Department of the Interior Ministry and was responsible for the preparation of the ministry's strategic and action plans, the action plans and reports of the department and meetings of the ministry's collegium.