

Translation of:

<http://www.lrytas.lt/-12887956821286644459-tiek-saviems-žmonėms-tiek-kalbant-apie-žydus-apie-kompensacijos-už-žydų-religinę-nuosavybę-įstatymo-projektą.htm>

## **For our people as much as in speaking of Jews (on legislation for compensating Jewish religious assets)**

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Who said that? Parliament member Valentinas Mazuronis, head of the fourth largest [Lithuanian parliamentary] faction, Order and Justice. Several months back meeting with prime minister Kubilius where Kubilius presented proposed legislation on compensating Jewish religious assets. The entire quote: “A debt is not a wound, it doesn’t heal, for our people as much as for Jews, and this problem needs to be solved. But [we] can’t solve one group’s problem while forgetting another. [We] need to solve this systematically, the debt to our citizens and other debts.”

So what’s so terrible anyway about what’s said here? That an MP called Lithuanian citizens of Jewish origin “others” [“foreigners”]. And not just that. [He] further named them as “non-people.” It’s one thing when over several years your articles receive up to twenty thousand anonymous comments by Jew haters, and something quite different when a member of parliament says that publicly.

Mazuronis finally understood that what he said really sounds horrible. “Perhaps I was simply careless and in a hurry without meaning to say anything bad, and so at the first opportunity I will explain this.” Thank you. It would be good if everyone understood as quickly. National Security Committee member Virginia Baltraitiene (Labor Party) also quickly realized that Lithuanian citizens can’t be divided into ours and others.

Liberal Center member A. Caplikas, however, indirectly seconded Mazuronis: “I very seriously doubt that the parliament this fall during cuts and voting on the budget will need to review as well the most sensitive questions of taxation policy, and [I doubt] there will be enough political will and power to adopt the aforementioned law without dividing society.”

Why should compensation for Jewish religious property, paying just 10 million for it over ten or twelve years, divide society? After all, did the buildings returned to the Catholic Church or compensation [for buildings] divide society then?

It needs to be emphasized here that we are speaking about compensation for religious property rather than the entire assets of all murdered Lithuanians of Jewish descent. Fellow journalists, politicians need to point this out and not divide society.

Thus through haste neither Lithuanians of Jewish descent nor ethnic Lithuanians so completely didn't realize that they had long ago become a marginalized group of people in the eyes of the others. Not even people, but, as it's fashionable to say now, “social group.”

One “social group,” it seems, is worth less than another “social group”... in other words, not people, in this case: Jews. Later they are Roma, Poles and Russians, and later still, liberal Lithuanians. Oh yeah, and gays, and, as writer Jonas Mikelinskas says, “English beasts,” urinating on the presidential building. Apropos, from Mikelinsko, sincerely seeking to defend the dignity of Lithuania. Reading through his “Right to Remain Misunderstood, or, We and They, They and We,” one so wants to tip one's hat before his “academic work.” Especially in those places where the honorable writer goes beyond merely citing the “Protocols of the Elders of Zion” and quotes Russian writer G. Klimov as an authoritative “expert on Jewish matters.”

I am convinced that Mikelinskas sincerely is concerned with Lithuania's dignity. So is an anonymous internet commentator: “I suggest [you] read G. Klimov's book *The Red Cabala* which describes wonderfully homosexuals and other degenerates” (comment unredacted).

Is there no one to be concerned with our dignity, with the dignity of Lithuanians of Lithuanian Jewish origin? Our grandparents, at the very least several hundreds of them, volunteers, served in the battles for Lithuanian

independence, and were decorated with the Order of the Cross of Vytis. They also died for Lithuania's freedom. What more can be said here?

This We and They attitude has endured. That's why, since the very beginning of the draft legislation on compensation for Jewish religious property, all those ten years sticks have been placed in the spokes of the wheels of restitution. Although "they," Lithuanians, were allowed to pour almost 240 million litas into a hole, pardon, I mean the concrete kitsch called the Royal Castle (another 250 million is still needed), and this was as nothing. Billions for LEO LT [failed nuclear power plant project]? Not a big deal. Throw around 50 million at the veksas or whatever that enterprise is called [some commission for organizing events and publicity for Vilnius as EU capital in 2009]. Also over 150 million allocated in the budget for "home loan insurance," not for debtors, but for the banks. How many more hundreds of millions were thrown to the winds in the "construction" of the Vilnius stadium?

So what, madam and gentlemen members of parliament, is 128 million for "them," for "non-people," for that "social group," too little, or too much? They were to have paid 374 million, but that has shrunk to only 128 million. Compare the 128 million to be paid over a decade with the 700 million of taxpayers' litas that went no one knows where and not to their benefit spent over two years. And in the case of compensation to Jewish religious communities, the Lithuanian state will retain all 1,600 buildings that have not title documents.

But that these buildings belonged to Lithuanians of Jewish descent is a fact. Also including private [owners], but [nonetheless] the real estate of murdered people. The estimated total sum is about a billion litas. Those retaining the rights [to the properties] will not have them returned and will not be compensated because many of them are no longer citizens of Lithuania.

In other words, originally the Soviets robbed the Jews of Lithuania, later the Nazis did this, and now further the independent Lithuania state [is robbing the Jews]. A state under the rule of law. Only compensation for 104 buildings will be made, whose total value... Do the math yourselves. Jewish citizens of Lithuania, however, will be offered just 30 percent of the value of buildings.

So, honorable members of parliament, you have discovered a wonderful opportunity for cheaply solving a problem that has become lodged in the bone. This is at least a real business to the benefit of taxpayers. You sell some buildings, and the 128 million that will be paid out as 10 million per year over 12 years will be returned to the state treasury. And where do you think these “Jewish millions” received will end up? In the Lithuanian market. Through religious, educational and cultural projects. If, of course, the recipient is as transparent and controllable [subject to supervision] as possible. Otherwise the money will disappear in the vastnesses of America.

But just between us, Lithuanian citizens of Jewish origin are piles of shit.

**[This is a totally incorrect translation!]**

**My text in Lithuanian: bet ir tarp mūsų, žydų kilmės lietuvių yra krūvos mėšlo.**

**The text reads: “But even among us, Jews of Lithuanian origin we have piles of crap”. Not in my worst dreams did I mean people or persons. I was talking about slanders, ugly talk behind one’s back, greediness... See explanation of that statement below:]**

One group thinks they’re better than all others, although the bones of the murdered relatives of all are scattered across all of Lithuania. Amorality [sic, author means immorality] knows no bounds. It’s not just Lithuanians who lose their minds over money. We can’t agree, although Judaism teaches [us] to solve conflicts through common agreement, based on justice, rather than through the power of the majority. But there’s no trace of that power either. That’s why assent was made for 128 million.

And, if we somehow fail to agree, we don’t make use of the good will of the this ruling coalition, otherwise known as political will, then, after this Government has fallen, we will remain with shards of glass. The parliament is already preparing the shards. If parliament members continue to find support in Hitler’s “Mein Kampf,” in “concepts of racial purity,” in the demagoguery of “we” and “they,” that is, while they themselves fail to “realize” it, they will divide their citizens into “ours” and “others,” then that [Jews remaining with shards of glass] is what will happen.

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### **Information on the draft legislation for compensation for Jewish religious property**

As you can see from the title, this is only about compensation for religious property. All other Christian confessions have had almost everything returned. Jewish religious communities [have received] almost nothing. This draft law in principle does not contradict the application of articles of the currently operating Law on Rules for the Rights of Religious Communities for Regaining Remaining Real Estate. So we are not talking about any special law for just one group.

This law is nothing other than an exception, because applications were not submitted on time in 1995 for returning or compensating religious property to religious communities under the existing law. So the argument “[let’s] return or compensate so and so first” is void.

The draft law talks about how payment will be made for 10 years starting in 2012 or, if the economic situation improves [?]. What does 10 million litas per year mean to the state? When the Church received billions? Renting buildings right and left. Otherwise it wouldn’t survive. How are Jewish religious communities to survive?

The weak point in the compensation legislation is that the recipient isn’t indicated. If the law is adopted without indicating a clear recipient, who knows to whom the money will be paid? An animal rescue operation? The explanatory note appended to the legislation does lay out certain criteria for the recipient, but that’s not sufficient. Clarity is needed, including legal [clarity] and [legal clarity that is] publicly published for public discussion. This is what the parliament’s demand should be to the government which will name the recipient.

Apparently the Lithuanian Jewish Community together with American Jews have created a Lithuanian Jewish Heritage Fund, and just glancing over the fund’s articles of incorporation and reading the negative conclusion by the experts of the corporate section of the Government’s Legal Department, you will understand immediately that not one single litas may be paid out to this “fund.” MPs must acquaint themselves with this finding before adopting the

law. (It's presented below). And also demand the government provide serious criteria of total transparency and control for selecting a recipient. It's not just Lithuanian citizens who are Litvaks, who themselves or whose parents were born in pre-war Lithuania, who must participate in the new fund. And not Jews who have never lived in Lithuania. The association Lithuanian Jewish Community is not the only organization in Lithuania. There are serious organizations and religious communities who do not belong to [this] association.

The draft law names goals for spending the money and possible control mechanisms. But they aren't enough because not a word is said about the recipient.

But I will never agree that, as is said in the draft law, three million litas of compensation money in 2011 will be allocated for victims of the Holocaust. (Who will be the recipient and how will the money be divided?). How does this work? They were murdered and robbed and now we will compensate the suffering they experienced with our own money? In a referendum Lithuania decided to demand from Russia compensation for suffering experienced. But at least so far those who were deported to Siberia and those who returned are being paid benefits. Are Jews not fellow citizens? Not people? A naïve question.

And this is what I've dedicated this entire article to: "For our people, just as much in speaking of Jews."

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Appendix: Negative finding by the Government's legal department and corporations division on the Lithuanian Jewish Heritage Fund, established by the association Lithuanian Jewish Community and American Jewish organizations. This fund is vying to be the sole recipient.

There is also an alternative fund project composed of independent Litvaks who have done much of merit for Lithuania, independent Lithuanian Jewish organizations and Lithuanian Jewish Community and religious communities. In any event, the law needs to specify guarantees to Jewish religious communities which do not belong to the association Lithuanian Jewish Community and the Lithuanian religious community they have established.

They must be guaranteed funds. After all, the draft law is called Compensation for Jewish Religious Property.

[appendix follows: finds negatives based on possible conflict of interest and government's inability to act as a shareholder]