

Translation from:

<http://www.lrytas.lt/-12928570521292847971-a-vinokuro-straipsniai-%C5%A1mei%C5%BEia-lietuvos-%C5%BEyd%C5%B3-bendruomen%C4%99.htm>

# A. Vinokuras's Articles Slander the Lithuanian Jewish Community

by Simonas Alperavičius [Simon Alperovich]

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Several articles by Arkadijus Vinokuras, that have recently appeared in the Lithuanian mass media, and which intentionally present false information about the activity and members of the Lithuanian Jewish Community, cast doubt on LJC's loyalty to Lithuania and try to persuade society at large that the Lithuanian Jewish Community is playing the role of a treasonous Fifth Column in Lithuania.

For this reason the LJC approached the editorial offices of *Lietuvos rytas* on December 16<sup>th</sup> 2010, with a request to retract the false information contained in this article [a provisional English translation of the article is available [here](#)].

We would like to point out that although A. Vinokuras signs his articles, the topics discussed in them are directly related to his duties as an advisor to the prime minister of Lithuania on Jewish community and religious property restitution issues.

Vinokuras's hatred for the LJC and its leadership are well known. He continues to base himself on totally unfounded criticisms of our Jewish community.

But this time he has crossed all bounds of decency.

We see no need to use the media to “demonstrate” that the Jewish Community of Lithuania and its leaders are loyal to Lithuania. Unlike *certain* parties, the LJC is a registered organization representing the Jews of Lithuania and its members and leadership have been Lithuanian citizens, not since 2002 and not through special decree by the president, as Vinokuras obtained his citizenship, but citizens by birth and calling, never having sought happiness in a collection of three simultaneous homelands.

Vinokuras has never been a member of the Lithuanian Jewish Community. His hatred, of which there is sufficient written evidence, began to express itself in public and non-public ways after his ambition to become one of the leaders of the LJC was rejected in democratically held elections.

Not having entered the leadership democratically, Vinokuras expressed no desire to become a rank and file member. It is odd that this person sought by all manners licit and illicit to take on the leadership of an organization which, according to him, represents nobody.

Attention must be drawn to another fact. A full decade ago, when Vinokuras had not yet become a Lithuanian citizen by Special Dispensation, the LJC began difficult negotiations with the then Government of Lithuania on restitution for Jewish religious and community property. Over that entire period the LJC has been the negotiating partner of every government including the current one.

For more than twenty years now there are only a few Jewish associations and organizations that have been registered with the Lithuanian Justice Ministry. The largest and the oldest, registered in 1988 and 1989, are the

Lithuanian Jewish Community and the Lithuanian Maccabee Sports Club, which, incidentally, is an associate member of the LJC, and whose chairman is a member of its board of directors.

After the LJC began negotiations on restitution, various new “Jewish organizations” began to sprout up and get registered. This is how the secretive Baltic Maccabee Association was established. One of those who established it was A. Vinokuras.

The genuine Maccabee Sports Club was one of the first Lithuanian sports organizations to proudly bear the national Lithuanian tricolor at the World Maccabee Games even before Lithuanian independence had been formally reestablished, and in so doing supported our country’s aspiration to become a part of Free Europe and the Free World.

Vinokuras's article serves those who are supposedly trying to get restitution accomplished quickly, but in truth aspire to sabotage the Lithuanian Jewish Community’s legitimate hopes to recover at least a portion of its former community property.

The LJC condemns Vinokuras’s attempts to poison the opinion of Lithuanian society and officials in the direction of believing in allegedly destructive activities of the Jewish Community of Lithuania.

The insulting tone in his “journalism” is his customary method. After all, he even writes with disrespect about the president of Lithuania, elected by the nation and representing the nation.

Vinokuras's machinations with respect to the Lithuanian Jewish Community with its supposedly few members are entirely invented, and the fact alone that we render substantial aid to more than 1,500 Jews who are Lithuanian citizens in need of social welfare demonstrates the deceit of this statement.

Whether A. Vinokuras likes it or not, the LJC is the only organization of Lithuanian Jews with the authority to represent the community in Lithuania and beyond her borders.

We believe that A. Vinokuras with his slanderous articles discredits the institution of the leader of the Government of Lithuania.

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*Dr. S. Alperavičius is the chairman of the Lithuanian Jewish Community which authorized him to present this text to the editor.*