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Swastikas on Tauro Hill the Handiwork of Tolerant Youth?

by Andrejus Žukovskis

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In Vilnius the Union of Tolerant Youth and in Kaunas the Jewish community both celebrated Hitler's 122nd birthday this year. At least, that's what Ričardas Čekutis [employed as a PR specialist at the Genocide Research Center – Trans.] , the head of the Lithuanian Patriotic Center, firmly believes. He thinks it was these organizations who hoisted flags with swastikas and painted over walls with inscriptions of “Juden raus” . The man says he himself hasn't sewn any swastika flags at home, but declined to say how he did celebrate Hitler's birthday.

Threatens to cut off hands

When he walks through the city Ričardas Čekutis likes to wear a shirt portraying a German soldier looking at Vilnius during World War II. He quickly declares all other expressions of Nazism to be provocations [of others]. He manages to retain self-control while speaking, but has a harder time controlling his own rhetoric, which more resembles threats than the thoughts of a tranquil person.

“I think the Jews themselves organize all these provocations. The Lithuanian Polish Electoral Action [Party], who despise other nationalities, should also be outlawed,” the chairman of the Lithuanian Patriotic Center explained emotionally, sitting on a bench next to the Museum of Genocide Victims [a

genocide museum that doesn't mention the Holocaust and whose parent organization employs Čekutis as a senior public relations specialist –Trans.].

The man who now calls himself a journalist, sometimes a politician, blames representatives of ethnic minorities and human rights organizations for escalating the neo-Nazi problem. He says he believes representatives of the Tolerant Youth organization hoisted the flags with swastikas, attempting to discredit the good name of nationalists and all nationalist patriotic forces. Čekutis said threateningly that it wouldn't end well.

“Not only did we not run up those flags, but we will cut off the hands of those who did this,” the head of the center said, and quickly explained whose hands should be severed: “Tolerasts [=tolerant + pedarast, Lithuanian neo-Nazi lingo] hoisted the flags. Do they deny it? They're lying.”

Remembers Tutsis but not Jews

He also called Jews liars who, he said, are constantly squabbling and bickering among themselves, make a business out of the Holocaust and are always wailing how they are the targets of complaints. He called these actions by Jews “playing with matches on top of a barrel of gunpowder.”

“The nerves of the citizens might not hold up, and then blood will be spilled. After that it will be hard to stop. It's just a matter of the formation of a critical mass. If the government doesn't do something, the citizens will,” Čekutis threatened.

Although it is universally known that the absolute majority of Jews were murdered in Lithuania during World War II (about 250,000 people), Čekutis, who works at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Resistance, wasn't prepared to grant significance to this fact.

“Different ethnic groups suffered, Russians and Lithuanians. And Ukrainians. Look at how many Tutsis were murdered in Rwanda. We can't even calculate how many survived. Not all Jews were murdered in Lithuania, some were left alive. It's important that they were left alive. Isn't it? But in Estonia all were exterminated,” Čekutis noted mysteriously.

[Translator's note: Čekutis on his Facebook page makes openly anti-Semitic statements about excluding Jews from state service in Lithuania while he draws a salary from the state—a state which outlaws such public statements of ethnic and religious hate—for doing PR work at a center dedicated to diminishing the importance of the Holocaust and elevating the status of the alleged “genocide” under Soviet rule. He also makes public statements against Roma, gays and lesbians and others. He obviously doesn't believe what he says in this interview about a provocation and is pursuing the tried-and-true Nazi axiom that the public is more likely to believe a big lie than a small one.]