

Authorized translation by Geoff Vasil of the statement of the Jewish Community of Lithuania of 14 March 2011 posted at:

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Statement by the Jewish Community of Lithuania on the March by Radical Youth on March 11 on Incitement to Ethnic Discord and the use of Nazi German Symbols

On March 11 this year a march of radical youth organized by the Lithuanian Nationalist Center took place, in which about 600 people marched along Gedimino Prospect from the Vilnius Cathedral to the Museum of Genocide Victims. The marchers chanted slogans insulting to ethnic minorities, there were signs with swastikas and some marchers openly copied the Nazi German “Sieg Heil” salute.

It was also astonishing that member of parliament Kazimieras Uoka, a member of the Nationalist faction, took part in the march.

Even though the Vilnius municipality knew about the radical content of this demonstration, was informed beforehand of slogans against ethnic minorities and received letters protesting against the possible demonstration, the Vilnius municipality nonetheless issued a permit.

The Lithuanian Jewish Community expresses its concern over the license issued by the Vilnius municipality for the demonstration whose slogans and symbols violate Lithuanian laws against inciting ethnic discord.

The Lithuanian Jewish Community considers it a complete lack of

understanding that this year, proclaimed by resolution of parliament the year for commemorating the Holocaust, the government of the capital issues licenses to those who during one of the most important state holidays, actually mock the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

The Lithuanian Jewish Community express the hope that the appropriate institutions of law enforcement will react to the clearly racist content of this demonstration.

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LITHUANIA

14 MARCH 2011