

Translation from:

http://www.alfa.lt/straipsnis/11880181/Plunges.rajone.vandalai.nusiaube.memoriala.nuzudytiems.zydams=2011-07-13_14-16/

Vandals Desecrate Memorial to Murdered Jews in Plunge Region

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A Jewish mass murder site at Kaušenai village in the Plunges region [in Lithuania] has become the target of vandals. They threw pieces of flagstones at a recently erected memorial to holocaust victims and marble plaques with the names of the murdered were damaged by gluing to them the burnt stems of plastic flowers .

Construction of the memorial was just completed last Saturday. Vandals vandalized it the same weekend.

An investigation has been started.

The vandalized memorial is part of the Wall of Memory. The wall is constituted of 1,800 bricks from the former Plunge synagogue. The number is that of the Jews murdered in this area.

The Wall of Memory was constructed as part of the commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the mass murders of Jews.

Plunge is thought to be one of the earliest areas settled by Jews [in Lithuania]. There were gravestones standing in the Old Jewish Cemetery of Plunge before the war with the dates of death given as the year 1500.

In general, Jewish immigrants began to arrive in Lithuania in 1348, when expulsions of Jews were carried out in Serbia, Moravia, Hungary and Silesia, when the Inquisition began in Spain and Portugal.

Jews expelled by force from these states moved to Lithuania. In 1939 the Lithuanian Jewish population was almost a quarter million. At that time 2,500 Jews lived in Plunge.