

Surveillance cameras considered outside Jewish community buildings in Lithuania to prevent anti-Semitic attacks

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VILNIUS, Jul 12, BNS – A possibility of installing surveillance cameras is considered in Lithuania to ensure protection of buildings of importance to the Jewish community.

The issue was discussed at a meeting of representatives of the Lithuanian Jewish Community and police chiefs on Tuesday. Among participants of the meeting were acting Police Commissioner General Algirdas Stoncaitis, Deputy Police Commissioner General Renatas Pozela, Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau Chief Algirdas Matonis, Vilnius County Central Police Commissariat Chief Kestutis Lanciskas and other officials, as well as Lithuanian Jewish Community Chairman Simonas Alperavicius and Executive Director Simonas Gurevicius.

Jewish representatives have expressed concern over the frequent events instigating national hatred and insulting national minorities, the Police Department said.

According to the press release, the participants agreed that surveillance cameras would help ensuring protection of buildings. An agreement was also reached that Jewish community members should be encouraged to become police or young police supporters, actively cooperate with police bureaus and provide and exchange useful information.

Leaders of Lithuania's police force assured that the local authorities would guarantee immediate response to offenses. The next meeting is planned for September.

The last anti-Semitic attack was reported on Sunday when the Paneriai Memorial, which is a tribute to victims of mass massacre, mainly Jews, was vandalized with red paint and racist phrases.

The memorial is built in the site of mass massacres where 100,000 people including about 70,000 Jews were annihilated during World War II.

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