

May 20, 2010

Wiesenthal Center: Yesterday's Decision by Lithuanian Court
to Allow Swastikas is Outrageous Insult to Holocaust Survivors
and All Anti-Fascists

Jerusalem – The Simon Wiesenthal Center today issued a strongly-worded protest against the decision yesterday by a Lithuanian court in the port city of Klaipeda to regard swastikas as symbols of Lithuania's historical heritage rather than of Nazi Germany. In a statement issued here today by its chief Nazi-hunter, Israel director Dr. Efraim Zuroff, the Center called the decision "outrageous" and likely to lead to a tremendous increase in the use of Nazi symbols by Lithuania's ultra-nationalist fascists.

According to Zuroff:

"Such a decision is certain to encourage Lithuania's fascists to increase their activity throughout the country. Allowing the use of swastikas sends a clear message to those local residents harshly victimized by the Nazis, that they are no longer welcome in their country of birth. Once again, Lithuanian judges show their obvious bias in favor of the perpetrators of Holocaust crimes rather than their victims. We urge the Lithuanian courts to overturn this outrageous and contemptible decision as quickly as possible."

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