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The Prime Minister of Lithuania: it is important to remember what we must not forget in the Holocaust history

Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius took part in a solemn opening of a new permanent exhibition on the commemoration of the Nazi occupation and the Holocaust in Lithuania, at the Museum of Genocide Victims. The Prime Minister noted the exceptional significance of the space that makes us remember events that are impossible to forget.

“The building, which hosted the KGB and the Gestapo during the Soviet and the Nazi occupations, respectively, is the best symbol of the terrible history of Lithuania, which is also depicted by historian Timothy Snyder in his book “Bloodlands”. This building is a true symbol of the blood land”, said the Prime Minister.

The new exhibition has been included into the programme of the year of remembrance of the population of Lithuania who fell victim to the Holocaust. According to Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius, the year of the Holocaust reminds us once again that the Holocaust was a terrible tragedy for the world and for Lithuania. “It is our responsibility to ensure that the Holocaust is never repeated on this earth. Therefore, it is most important that in this place we remember what we must not forget”, noted Andrius Kubilius.

The new exhibition has been mounted in ward No 3 of the former KGB inner prison wherein there still remain inscriptions of people imprisoned by the Gestapo during the years of the Nazi occupation dated 1942–1944. Placed in a narrow space, the exposition displays the material on the Nazi occupation in Lithuania, the Gestapo prison and its inmates, the history of the Vilnius ghetto, mass murder site in Paneriai, recent explorative studies carried out in 2008 in the territory of the Paneriai Forest Park, as commissioned by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, as well as the names of the non-Jewish residents of Lithuania that have been granted the title of the Righteous among the Nations for rescuing Jews during the Holocaust.

According to the authors that have set the exposition, they have made use of the photographs, documents and items from the collections of the Genocide and Resistance Research Center, the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum, Kaunas IX Fort Museum, the Lithuanian Central State Archive, and private persons.

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Press Office

