

Lithuania hypocritical about Holocaust

In response to "Lithuania is helping its Jewish community," February 27

I was not surprised that Lithuanian ambassador Darius Degutis felt obligated to write a letter to the editor in response to Adar Primor's justified claims in his February 14 article, "Hitler's little mustache," about Lithuania's attempts to distort the history of the Holocaust and create a false symmetry between the crimes of the Nazis and their henchmen and the crimes of communism.

The question is whether the seemingly impressive data presented by Degutis faithfully reflect the reality in his country. The answer is no.

One example of Lithuanian hypocrisy regarding the Holocaust is the government's declaration of 2011 as a year for remembering Holocaust victims, as the ambassador noted in his letter. However, the ambassador did not mention that a week after that declaration, the government announced that 2011 would also be a year for recognizing "Lithuania's heroes." And those considered heroes who fought for Lithuanian independence include several people who murdered Jews during the Holocaust, which in Lithuania does not prevent a "freedom fighter" from being honored and admired.

Unfortunately, the State of Israel is ignoring such scandalous incidents and selling the history of the Holocaust and the memory of its victims in Lithuania for a pot of lentils, in the form of a vote against UNESCO recognizing Palestine. This vote changed nothing, but did seriously offend anyone concerned with the memory of the Holocaust.

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