

HE Ambassador Asta Skaisgirytė Liauškienė
The Lithuanian Embassy,
Lithuania House,
2 Bessborough Gardens,
Westminster,
London, SW1V 2JE

17 December 2012

Dear Madame Ambassador,

We the undersigned write, following announcement that the Lithuanian Embassy is one of the generous co-sponsors of this month's conference on Jewish-Lithuanian issues including the Holocaust, to ask the Embassy's public support on the following urgent matters:

- 1) Rapid and elegant apologies, released prior to the conference, to the Jewish Holocaust Survivors defamed in recent years by Lithuanian prosecutors, media and some government officials. The survivors are in their late 80s and 90s, making time essential if there is going to be a symbolic amelioration in the manner in which the Lithuanian state is ending a 700 year old history of Jewish settlement, and on what note, with the last survivors of the bona fide pre Holocaust generation. Most urgently, Rachel Margolis; also: Yitzhak Arad and Fania Brantsovsky and Joseph Melamed.
- 2) Rapid removal of the anti-Semitic exhibits and/or inscriptions in the Genocide Museum in central Vilnius and in the historic information signs supplied by the Genocide Centre to the Gruto parkas memorial complex outside Druskininkai.
- 3) Schedule for rapid removal of all state-sponsored memorials in public places and state-funded institutions to Holocaust collaborators, perpetrators and other pro-Nazi figures and organisations. Most urgent are street names honouring 1941 murderers, and the lecture hall and bas relief plaque at Vytautas Magnus University (which it seems is sending several representatives to the conference) honouring the 1941 Nazi puppet prime minister who signed the orders for the Kovno Ghetto. (Earlier this year, your government invested heavily in his reburial amidst various glittering events that caused untold anguish to Holocaust Survivors and their families as well as to those whose family members and nations made vast sacrifices to free Europe from Hitler's rule).
- 4) A commitment to disallow the neo-Nazi parades in the city centres of Vilnius and Kaunas on national Independence Day holidays in 2013 (with no prejudice to reassignment of venues on free speech grounds to sites and dates that do not heavily imply state support).
- 5) Guarantee of freedom of people in Lithuania, citizens and others, to support the Seventy Years Declaration and oppose the Prague Declaration without fear of repercussion (current fear resulting under the 2010 law making double genocide in some sense the law of the land and criminalising dissent).

6) Agreement in principle to preserve for posterity the last and only surviving Jewish partisan anti-Nazi fort, which is rapidly sinking into the earth and subject to vandalism and pilfering for firewood. It is a major international site testifying to the indomitable human spirit of survival against all odds.

7) Immediate abandonment of the state's financing of the campaign to obfuscate the Holocaust by way of the ongoing campaign for 'making equal' Nazi and Soviet crimes, via commissions, conferences, events, publications and the continuing pressure in the European Union and European Parliament; deletion of the revisionist goals announced for Lithuania's forthcoming 2013 presidency of the EU, a deletion which can only enhance Lithuania's authority and prestige for the fulfilling of the role in a manner which the fine people of Lithuania deserve and merit.

Attempts of the Lithuanian government to ingratiate itself to Jewish communities in Western cities, such as the ones in London, whilst continuing to actively fund and support the above mentioned issues, can only be seen as wholly duplicitous and unacceptable, undermining even the public relations goals of such events to the detriment of all parties concerned.

With the sincere intent of repairing Lithuanian-Jewish relations and calling for the people of Lithuania to enjoy the same standards as citizens of any other EU and NATO state, we the undersigned request that the newly elected Lithuanian government addresses, without further delay and as a matter of urgency, the seven matters raised within this petition.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

- **Associate Professor Danny Ben-Moshe**, Victoria University, Australia
- **Ruth Barnett**, Kindertransportee and Holocaust educator challenging ignorance, stereotypes and prejudice: Human Rights Activist for Rene Cassin
- **Didier Bertin**, President of the Society for the Promotion of a European Model of Human Rights
- **Uri Chanoch**, Board Member, Claims Conference and survivor of Kovno ghetto
- **Dr Hans Coppi**, German Historian, former project director at Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum for electronic archives, Researcher at German Resistance Memorial Centre, Chairman of the Berlin association of anti-fascists and son of the murdered resistance fighters Hans and Hilde Coppi
- **David Cukier**, former UCL student and child of Holocaust survivors
- **Mark Davidson**, Photojournalist and campaigner for the rights of disabled people, UK
- **Dr Aleksandrs Feigmanis**, Riga, Latvian based historian, researcher, Jewish genealogist, owner of Balticgen.com, author of *Latvian Jewish Intelligentsia Victims of the Holocaust*
- **Panos Fellas**, Campaigner for the rights of Roma and Sinti in Greece

- **Irena Fick**, Second Generation Holocaust survivor
- **Rod Freedman**, film director
- **Dr Sebastian Gerhardt** Author of '*Polska Polityka Wschodnia. Die Außenpolitik der polnischen Regierung von 1989 bis 2004 gegenüber den östlichen Nachbarstaaten Polens (Russland, Litauen, Weißrussland, Ukraine).*' Marburg, 2007
- **Salomea Genin**, Author of '*Scheindl und Salomea*'
- **Dr Clemens Heni**, Director, The Berlin International Center for the Study of Antisemitism
- **Irene Lawford Hinrichsen**, Author of *Five Hundred Years to Auschwitz* and granddaughter of murdered music publisher Henri Hinrichsen, CF Peters Verlag
- **Dr Saul Issroff**, Litvak genealogist and author of *The Holocaust in Lithuania: A Book of Remembrance 1939-1945*
- **Dr Dovid Katz**, Editor of www.DefendingHistory.com
- **Peter Krips**, Author of *World War 2 History: A Day by Day Account of Exactly What Happened and Why You Need to...*
- **Gunter Lessing**, former publisher Bruecken Verlag
- **Ernest Lowenberg**, Holocaust survivor and refugee
- **Monica Lowenberg**, Second Generation Holocaust Survivor, published historian, former researcher at The Centre for German Studies, Sussex University, Educationalist at The Wiener Library, London
- **Rt Hon Dr Denis MacShane**, former Europe Minister UK
- **Rabbi Barry Marcus**, Central Synagogue, London; Trustee, Holocaust Memorial Day; Patron of Yad Vashem, UK
- **Budd Margolis**, cousin of Lithuanian Holocaust survivor and falsely accused of war crimes by the Lithuanian government, Rachel Margolis
- **Gary Mokotoff**, co-owner of Avotaynu, Board of Directors International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Association of Professional Genealogists, Jewish Book Council, Association of Jewish Book Publishers, and JewishGen.
- **Merilyn Moos**, Second Generation Holocaust survivor and author of *The Language of Silence*

- **Craig John Murray**, British political activist, former ambassador to Uzbekistan and former Rector of the University of Dundee
- **Fabio Perselli**, Editor and son of former Italian diplomat
- **Professor Faye Ran**, Metropolitan College of New York
- **Dr. Andrej Reder**, German Politician Die Linke
- **Prof Michael Shafir**, Babes-Bolyai University, Dept of International Studies, Faculty Member, Romania
- **Cornelia Siebec**, Author of *'Verlorene Zeiten'* and Lecturer at Ruhr Universitat, Bochum
- **Hanna Tomkins**, Holocaust survivor and former archivist at The Wiener Library London
- **Geoff Vasil**, American-born writer long resident in Lithuania, senior analyst at www.DefendingHistory.com
- **Dr. Vilhjalmur Örn Vilhjalmsson**, Lecturer on Archaeology, written extensively about Jewish history in Iceland and Scandanavia, author of *The fates of Jewish refugees in Denmark 1933-1945*
- **Saskia von Brockdorff**, Daughter of Nazi resistance fighter Graefin von Brockdorff
- **Dr Fritz Wefelmeyer**, (University of Frankfurt am Main, Oxford) Reader, Team Leader/Head of English and Lecturer on Totalitarian States at Sunderland University, Author of *'Seelen Arbeit an Deutschland'*
- **Gert Weisskirchen**, Social Democratic Party of Germany
- **Gisela Wenzel**, Recipient of Gold Medal from Poland 2001 for her work *NS-Zwangsarbeit der Berliner Geschichtswerkstatt*
- **Dr Beruriah Wiegand**, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies and Hebrew and Jewish Studies Unit, University of Oxford Oriental Institute
- **Dr Gerhard Wolf**, Deputy Director, Centre for German –Jewish Studies (History) Sussex University, Lecturer in German History
- **Olga Zabłudoff**, Author of *'A Thousand threads: a story told through Yiddish letters'*

- **Dr Efraim Zuroff**, Director, Simon Wiesenthal Center-Israel Office, and Coordinator, SWC Nazi War Crimes Research Worldwide
- **Rose Zwi**, Writer and author of *Last Walk in Noriskin Park (Zagare)*
- **RABBI Yigael Lvovich Yehudi**



Who would have dreamt that in 2012, a European Union and NATO country would be doing this to the survivors and the memory of their victims: honouring the Nazi puppet prime minister who signed the orders for all the Jewish citizens of his city to be herded into and locked up in a ghetto within four weeks.

Are these the values that an EU/NATO government wants to instil in its young people?