



מרכז שמועון ויזנטל
מכון סניידר למעורבות ציבורית
Simon Wiesenthal Center
Snyder Social Action Institute

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08-36

May 28, 2008

H.E. Ambassador Mrs. Asta Skaisgirytė - Liauskienė
Embassy of Lithuania
8 Shaul ha-Melech St.
Beit Amot Mishpat
Tel Aviv 64733

Dear Ambassador Skaisgirytė - Liauskienė,

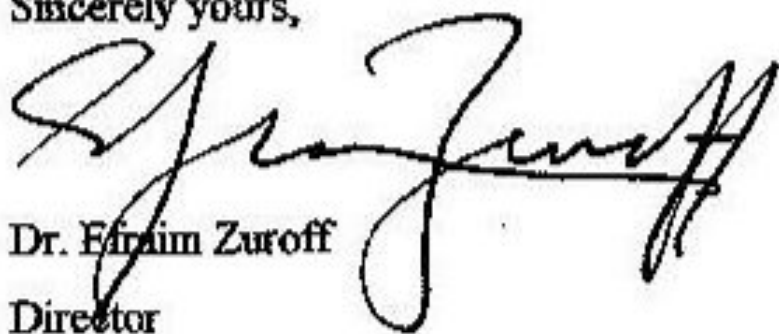
Recent events in Lithuania have given the Simon Wiesenthal Center much cause for concern. If an unhindered march by Lithuanian neo-Nazis shouting anti-Semitic slogans in the main street of the capital were not terrible enough, we recently learned of another investigation launched by local prosecutors against an anti-Nazi partisan on the alleged suspicion of "war crimes."

On May 5 and 13, 2008 plainclothes policemen came looking for Fania Brantsovsky, the librarian of the Vilnius Yiddish Institute, and Rachel Margolis in connection with an investigation against the former for supposed war crimes during World War II. The irony of such allegations is that on April 30, 2008 Fania Brantsovsky has just been honored by the American Embassy for "her struggles as a partisan fighting the Nazi occupiers."

If we add this investigation to the one currently being conducted by the Lithuanian authorities against former Yad Vashem Chairman and anti-Nazi partisan Dr. Yitzchak Arad, it is absolutely clear that a deliberate campaign is currently underway to discredit the brave Jewish heroes of the anti-Nazi resistance and help deflect attention from the infinitely more numerous crimes by Lithuanians against Jews during the Holocaust. In that context, I must add that each of these investigations was preceded by a vicious article that bordered on the anti-Semitic in the Lithuanian daily Lietuvos Aidas.

I want to point out that we have every intention of exposing and responding to this malicious campaign against innocent heroes of the anti-Nazi resistance whose only "crime" was to fight against the occupiers of Lithuania who sought with the help of local collaborators to annihilate the Jewish people.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Efraim Zuroff
Director