

## DRAFT TRANSLATION OF PRESS COMMISSION COMPLAINT

Complainant

[name and address deleted in this translation]

To: Journalists' Ethics Inspector

Mrs. Zita Zamzickiene

Gedimino pr. 60

Vilnius 01110

[stamped Received by Journalists' Ethics Inspectorate, May 13, 2013]

[handwritten notes to **proceed with investigation**]

# COMPLAINT

## May 13, 2013, Vilnius

### **1. Indicate the media outlet and specific publication where information was published which demeaned the honor and dignity of the applicant, violating the protection of his private life.**

A. Internet information site Kauno Zinios (kaunozinios.lt, editor-in-chief Saulius Rimkus), publication of May 1, 2013, "The Riddle of Blogger Zeppelinus Solved. Kaunozinios.lt Announces a Search" (author: kaunozinios.lt editorial office).

Internet link: [kaunozinios.lt/naujienos/blogerio-zeppelinus-misle-iminta-kaunozinios-lt-skelbia.paieska\\_67178.html](http://kaunozinios.lt/naujienos/blogerio-zeppelinus-misle-iminta-kaunozinios-lt-skelbia.paieska_67178.html)

B. Internet information site Lietuvos Rytas (lrytas.lt, editor-in-chief Liudas Dapkus) May 2, 2013 publication "Ministerial Employee Accused of Nationalism" (by Martynas Cerkauskas)

Internet link: [lrytas.lt/-13675079241367028886%C5%ABkio-ministerijos-darbuotojas-kaltinamas-nacionalizmu.htm](http://lrytas.lt/-13675079241367028886%C5%ABkio-ministerijos-darbuotojas-kaltinamas-nacionalizmu.htm)

C. Internet site DefendingHistory.com (defendinghistory.com, editor Dovid Katz) May 2, 2013 publication "Reports from Lithuania Media Claim That Neo-Nazi 'Zeppelinis' is Unmasked as -- a Government Official!" (author not indicated)

Internet link: [defendinghistory.com/reports-from-lithuanian-media-claim-that-neo-nazi-zeppelinus-is-unmasked-as-a-government-official/53316](http://defendinghistory.com/reports-from-lithuanian-media-claim-that-neo-nazi-zeppelinus-is-unmasked-as-a-government-official/53316)

D. Internet site Anarchija.lt (anarchija.lt, editor-in-chief not indicated, Darius Pocevicus as indicated in the press) May 2, 2013 publication “The Nazi Incubators at the Ministries. Oh Yes, I’m Clicking ‘Like’” (by Vilis Normanas (Povilas Senuta))

Internet link: [anarchija.lt/politika/38412-ministerijose-naciu-veisyklos-o-taip-spaudziu-like](http://anarchija.lt/politika/38412-ministerijose-naciu-veisyklos-o-taip-spaudziu-like)

E. Internet information site Balsas.lt May 5, 2013, publication “The Nazi Incubators at the Ministries. Oh Yes, I’m Clicking ‘Like’” (by Vilis Normanas (Povilas Senuta))

Internet link: [balsas.lt/naujiena/731538/ministerijose-naciu-veisyklos-o-taip-spaudziu-like](http://balsas.lt/naujiena/731538/ministerijose-naciu-veisyklos-o-taip-spaudziu-like)

## **2. What published information is not true, how has the right to privacy been violated, how has the interest of minors been harmed?**

A. In the publication “The Riddle of the Blogger Zeppelinus Solved. Kaunožinios.lt Announces a Search” (by the kaunožinios.lt editorial office).

A portrait photograph of me, taken without my consent, is presented in the publication, and connections with an internet personality are made, and it is claimed that the person pictured in the photograph is:

“A person heaping scorn upon liberalism and claiming liberals are pestilent to society, and whose ‘free markets’ are only destroying the Lithuanian people.”

“A person claiming the European Union is evil absolute, a den of iniquity, destroying the Lithuanian state.”

These claims, assigned to me through the connections between a real person and an internet personality, in the manner they are formulated, were never expressed by me. They do not reflect my world-view nor the positions I have expressed publicly. They are not true, and do damage to my professional reputation and legitimate interests.

These statements have the hallmarks of an intentional attempt [sic] to assign to a public servant who deals as well with EU issues a publicly-expressed position which is at odds with the policies carried out by the state.

“The main target of the hatred of this internet personality are Jews, Poles and homosexuals.”

The naming of “directions of hatred in terms of groups of people defined by ethnic origins and sexual orientation might give some readers the impression that a criminal

crime [sic] is being discussed, as defined in article 170 of the criminal code of the Republic of Lithuania (“Whosoever publicly derides, defames, or encourages the hatred of or calls for discrimination against a group of people or a member of that group based on gender, sexual orientation, race, nationalist...”).

This is untrue, imparting the impression that I possibly am involved in illegal activity in violation of the criminal code.

Moreover, I have never expressed a position of hatred toward Jewish, Polish or homosexual people because of their nationality or orientation, and I don’t feel any such hatred toward them.

The claim giving rise to this sort of impression demeans my honor, dignity and professional reputation.

“The only thing we wish for is that this internet personality to become more circumspect in his statements, and that Zeppelinus in the future won’t be so cock-sure he can hide behind anonymity [sic], avoiding responsibility for his words and actions.”

The statement expressed that the internet personality and author writes under a pseudonym “to avoid responsibility for his words and actions.”

Phrased in this way, some readers might get the impression what is being spoken of is the avoidance of legal responsibility and evading organs of law-enforcement

Article 5 of the Law on the Provision of Public Information gives every individual the right to collect and publish information in the media, in their own name, under a pseudonym or anonymously, and article 11 of the same law forbids persecution [= prosecution as well] the writer, publisher, collector, participant and/or journalist for the information published, so long as no laws were violated in preparing and publishing that information.

The claim imparting the impression that I possibly am on the run from legal responsibility demeans my honor, dignity and professional reputation.

B. The publication “Ministerial Employee Accused of Nationalism” (by Martynas Cerkauskas)

The headline for the article, “[Finance] Ministry Employee Accused of Nationalism” and the statement “It is suspected that the author of comments on the internet accused of nationalism, who goes by the pseudonym Zeppelinus, is really the head of one department of the Finance Ministry,” might give some readers the impression that I am accused of some illicit activity or of expressing a shameful position condemned by society.

I have not been and am not accused under law, and nationalism, as with any ideology forming the ideational foundation of the national state, is not shameful, nor to be

condemned, and thus statements giving rise to such an impression are insulting, demean my honor and dignity and harm my professional reputation.

The text continues by citing falsely the information from the aforementioned KaunoZinios.lt article, damaging my professional reputation and legitimate interests:

“A person who decries liberalism and claims liberals are pestilent to society, and their ‘free markets’ are only destroying the Lithuanian people. A person who says the European Union is absolute evil, a den of iniquity, destroying the Lithuanian state.”

“...Blogger Zeppelinus, given the slightest opportunity, must criticize Jews and ethnic and sexual minorities. The main targets of this internet personality are Jews, Poles and homosexuals.” “...this is how KaunoZinios.lt, which also joined in the search for the blogger this week, characterized him.”

See point 2A for an explanation and complaint on these statements.

“Internet commentators deride the minister’s statements and inability to discern which ministry she heads.

“Among the commentators invited to the ministry was also Zeppelinus, but he stayed away from the meeting.”

Connecting these two statements, some readers might get the impression that among those making fun of the minister was the internet personality ascribed to me who was for that reason invited to a meeting with her. Which is incorrect, because I hadn’t made those sorts of comments.

I am an employee of the Finance Ministry, so such statements, giving rise to such impressions but false, impinge on my honor and dignity and damage my professional reputation.

C. The publication “Reports from Lithuanian Media Claim that Neo-Nazi ‘Zeppelinus’ is Unmasked as — A Government Official!”

Headline: Reports from Lithuanian Media Claim that Neo-Nazi ‘Zeppelinus’ is Unmasked as — A Government Official!

and the text following:

“Lrytas.lt today published an article by Martynas Cerkauskas, ‘Lithuanian Economics Ministry Employee Accused of Nationalism,’ which follows this week’s exposes in Antifa.lt and Kauno Zinios, which all imply or claim that the neo-Nazi internet ‘hero’ who calls himself ‘Zeppelinus’ is actually director of the Economic Ministry’s Expansion of Human Resources Department and a member of the Tripartite Council (labor, business and government), where he is the chief representative of the government’s interests.

“Defending History would be pleased to publish prominently a denial from the named government official that he is ‘Zeppelinus’ and this invitation extends to inviting him, if he wishes, to condemn in writing the racist, antisemitic and homophobic web publications that are disseminated under that name. Moreover, we invite the named Ministry and Council to condemn the hatred of Lithuania’s minorities spewed by Mr. Zeppelinus.

“The term ‘nationalism’ in the Lrytas.lt article is a typical Baltic euphemism for acute and vicious racism, antisemitism and homophobia. Zeppelinus’s blogs are replete with hatred of Blacks, Poles, Roma, Russians, Jews, Gays, and with unbridled adoration of fascism and current events that honor local collaborators of the Holocaust (which in Lithuania annihilated around 95% of the country’s Jewish population, the highest percentage in Europe).”

calls me a “neo-Nazi,” ascribes to my authorship racist, antisemitic and homophobic publications, hatred of blacks, Poles, Russians, Jews and gays, and the justification of fascism and local Holocaust collaborators.

Such statements on my expressed position are incorrect, and the characterizations of a judgmental nature of my self and my public position are insulting.

Neo-Nazism as the transfer of the ideology of German National Socialism to current politics, could be linked with activities forbidden and punishable by law, as well as with attitudes condemned by Lithuanian society.

Likewise, these statements and characterizations are incorrect, creating the impression that I might be engaged in illicit activities forbidden by the criminal code.

Moreover, I do not feel any hatred towards Jews, Poles or homosexuals because of their ethnicity or orientation and I have never expressed any such position.

These statements giving rise to this sort of impression defame my honor and dignity as well as my professional reputation.

D. Anarchija.lt publication “Nazi Incubators at the Ministries. Oh, Yes, I’m Clicking ‘Like’” (by Vilis Normanas (Povilas Senuta))

The article does not include my name, but an internet link to a text which does, and also the circumstances of my workplace is provided, which allows for confidently connecting me with the characterizations and statements provided in the text.

The headline “Nazi Incubators at the Ministries. Oh, Yes, I’m Clicking ‘Like’,” insultingly describes me as a “Nazi,” i.e., it categorically connects me with activity banned by law and subject to criminal prosecution, as well as attitudes condemned by Lithuanian society.

“The new Government will undoubtedly become one of the most colorful in the whole history of Lithuania, and will remind our great-great-great-great grandchildren how politics based on Nazism/nationalism ends up: it results in Auschwitz, but in the

21st century there is no need to build gas chambers, it's a free world and so normal citizens walk away from countries based on nationalism. Here remains only the remains of Human Resources, rejects called ministerial clerks.”

This paragraph places me in the same context with the Auschwitz human extermination camp and gas chambers as well as Nazism, i.e. it categorically links [me] with activities forbidden and punishable by law and with attitudes condemned by Lithuanian society.

“Without going deeply into what he has written (since that would be a total waste of time), let's list some of this joker's fundamental values, which are, supposedly, a 'critique' of liberalism. The essence of the critique is that liberalism will destroy Lithuania, the target of the critique is all people who think at least a little bit. Because these sorts of 'critics' don't know what the word means, and so they don't provide any arguments, let's go directly to the statements which are still a Hegelian “negation of negation”: liberalism and the EU are at root evil itself, they are taking away Lithuanian values and turning everyone into deviants: into Jews, Poles, homosexuals and Gypsies. This must be destroyed, and guess what miracle is capable of stopping it?””

These statements ascribed to me, linked to me by way of the connection of a real person to an internet personality, were never made in the manner formulated [here]. They do not reflect my worldview or publicly stated positions. This is incorrect which harms my professional reputation and legitimate interests.

These kinds of statements bear the hallmarks of an intentional attempt to ascribe to me, a public servant who deals also with EU issues, the taking of a public position against the policies of the state.

“But here there's a question: what should now be done with those who for some reason are different than the masses? In the ministerial clerk's opinion, these need to be 'destroyed.' Nazified.”

This paragraph ascribes to me statements which I have not expressed and positions I have not expressed.

“If we're speaking of socialization, then yes, I will say what one philosopher has said: if you choose Nazism intentionally, I will not agree, but I will honor [your decision], and I say that because I like thinking people, [but] if you just seeking after a better piece of the pie, you are garbage. And now almost an EPR paradox: a person who says he defends Lithuania. Completely laughable, but he still loves her devotedly. This little fellow belongs to the apparatchik caste, i.e., to the absolute lowest of the untouchables.”

“This is a bootlicker. This is who journalists mean when they speak of “people who always get into public service.” They are loyal to the system, not to the people, not to the state, they are horrible, disgusting creatures who maintain the status quo. They are the instigators of hate, violence, injustice and all that is despicable. That is who this blogger/ministerial clerk is.”

In this paragraph I am associated with the intentional choice of Nazism, i.e., [I am] categorically linked with activities banned and punishable by law and with attitudes condemned by Lithuanian society.

“I am not saying the blogger/apparatchik has written something badly (since I haven’t even read anything [by him] and don’t even have a quote [from him]), but I want to say something more important: he doesn’t support at all what he writes.

“Vesaite loved Lenin, [and the] blogger/apparatchik was probably enamored of him, too—and adopted his writing talents, since he understood, as did Ilyitch, that in order to gain credibility with the people, one must speak ‘the slaves’ language,’ and if one wants them to like one, one must satisfy the basest needs of the society. He (I am guessing from the thoughts of several acquaintances), that Nazi blog, that torch burning with hate, provided comfort to someone and made them feel better, but now they must be afflicted. Finally we have seen the fat and disgusting snout of the pig, once the clown’s mask was removed... That’s how it was before, and that’s how it will be. You won’t discover gold underneath hatred.”

In this paragraph the author says he hasn’t read texts ascribed to me. Nonetheless he continues on afterward to level demeaning characterizations of an insulting nature against me, “Nazi blog,” connecting me with activities banned and punishable by law and with attitudes condemned by Lithuanian society.

E. Balsas.lt publication “Nazi Incubators at the Ministries. Oh, Yes, I’m Clicking ‘Like’” (by Vilis Normanas (Povilas Senuta))

The author and text of the article are identical to the Antifa.lt article [of the same name] described in Point 2D.

Correspondingly, my complaints are the same.

### **3. What are you asking of the Journalists’ Ethics Inspector?**

I am asking [you] to require the public information outlets [media outlets] above to do at least one of the following:

- 1) To remove from internet access, including associated Facebook and G+ accounts, webpages and the internet search engine Google’s web cache incorrect information about me, damaging my honor and dignity and statements of an insulting and demeaning nature harming my professional reputation.
- 2) To retract the incorrect information damaging my honor and dignity and statements of an insulting and demeaning nature harming my professional reputation.

3. To remove from internet access, including associated Facebook and G+ accounts, webpages and the internet search engine Google's web cache the entire content of the aforementioned articles.

#### **4. Have you gone to another agency about this issue?**

No, as of the day of the writing of [this] complaint I have not.

#### **5. Is a complaint on the same matter being heard by a court?**

No, as of the day of the writing of [this] complaint it is not.

#### **6. Has a procedural decision to bring an administrative case because of the matter raised in the complaint been made?**

No, as of the day of the writing of [this] complaint it has not.

#### **7. Other information and circumstances [details] which you feel are connected with the complaint**

[blank]

Appended:

1. Kauno Zinios article [date, web link]
2. Lrytas.lt article [date, web link]
3. Defendinghistory.com article [date etc.]
4. Anarchija.lt article [etc.]
5. Balsas.lt article

Respectfully,  
[signature / name deleted in this translation]