



DIRECTOR OF VILNIUS CITY ADMINISTRATION

ATTN: Simon Wiesenthal Centre

March 2015 No. A51- ~~15623~~ /15(2.3.4.13-SM3)

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I 03/03/2015 No. A121-4785/15(2.1.19-AD8)

RE: PROCESSION ON 11 MARCH

Vilnius City Municipality Administration has analyzed your address of 3 March 2015 regarding the procession of 11 March 2015 in Vilnius and analyzed possible provocations during the procession.

Article 36 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania stipulates that *Citizens may not be prohibited or hindered from assembling unarmed in peaceful meetings. This right may not be limited otherwise than by law and only when it is necessary to protect the security of the State or society, public order, people's health or morals, or the rights and freedoms of other persons.*

Law on Meetings of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – ‘the Law’) stipulates the conditions and organizational procedures for ensuring the citizens’ constitutional rights to gather for peaceful meetings. The notices with regard to the meetings shall be analyzed and the certificates on the aligned venue, time and form (hereinafter – ‘the Certificate’) shall be issued pursuant to the procedures stipulated by the Law. Article 8 stipulates a finite list of forbidden meetings. Point 2 of paragraph 1 of article 11 stipulates the basis according to which a decision to refuse to issue a certificate on the aligned venue, time and form has been taken.

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania in its decision of 7 January 2000 stated that *it cannot be prohibited to hold meetings which are not directly indicated by the Law as the ones that should be prohibited provided that the meetings are in line with the requirements on the venue (paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 6 of the Law) and time (article 7) stipulated by the Law.*

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law, the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania and taking into consideration Certificate No. 4D-2009/3-485 of 12 October 2009 of the Ombudsman of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Event (meeting) Alignment Commission have analyzed the request of the representatives of the Lithuanian National Centre and Lithuanian National Youth Union. Having not established the basis

for the refusal to issue a certificate laid down in point 2 of paragraph 1 of article 11 and the signs listed in article 8 for prohibiting meetings, on 4 March 2015 the organizers were issued a permit for the procession.

It should also be noted that Vilnius City Municipality Administration had not received any official information from the police or other special services with regard to possible incidents or provocations, which could endanger the security of the state and the society, therefore, without finding circumstances laid down in the Law, due to which the aforementioned procession and the meeting could not be held, there was no basis to inform the organizers thereof and to propose them to cancel the procession.

In all meetings and other events (including the 11 March procession), for which Vilnius City Municipality Administration has issued permits, the public order is preserved by the officers of Vilnius County Police Headquarters. Should police officers establish infringements, the guilty persons will be immediately prosecuted.

Deputy Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danuta Narbut', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the top left.

Danuta Narbut