

Plea by American Roshei Yeshiva tro Lithuanian authorities to avoid further desecration of the 500 years old Snipisek Jewish Cemetery in Vilnius

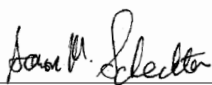
The Month Of Av 2015

The Snipisek Jewish Cemetery in Vilnius, Lithuania was established in 1487 and houses the remains of tens of thousands of Jews including some of the greatest scholars and sages of the Jewish people. Tragically, the location of the cemetery has made it a target for development and other uses which desecrate it.

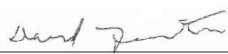
As descendants and members of the heir community of Vilna, we have joined together to express our pain and sorrow at the desecration that has taken place in the past, and to protest any use of this sacred site other than for prayer and solemn reflection.

The world's Rabbinic and Talmudic Seminaries and Congregations are the direct heirs of the spirituality and scholarship of the saintly people buried in Snipisek. The legacy that they left to us is a bedrock foundation which continues to guide us. We live today with their teachings as part of our heritage.

We ask Lithuanian Officials to affirm their respect for the dignity of the dead as an integral part of Western Civilization, of which Lithuania is an esteemed member. We call upon them to prevent any further incursions and uses of the Snipisek cemetery which would desecrate it.



Rabbi Aaron M. Schechter
Rabbinical Academy Mesivta Chaim Berlin



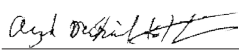
Rabbi David Feinstein
Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem of America



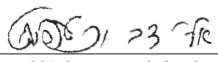
Rabbi Yosef Rosenblum
Beth HaMedrash Shaarei Yosher



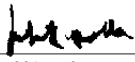
Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetsky
Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia



Rabbi Aryeh Malkiel Kotler
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Rabbi Elya Ber Wachtfogel
Yeshiva Zichron Moshe



Rabbi Moshe Green
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Rabbi Aharon Feldman
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Rabbi Osher Kalmanowitz
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Rabbi Reuven Feinstein
Yeshiva of Staten Island



Rabbi Chaim Dov Keller
Telshe Yeshiva - Chicago



Rabbi Moshe Brown
Agudath Israel of West Lawrence