

----- Original Message ----- From: "Martin Gilbert" <sirmartingilbert@yahoo.co.uk>
To: "Kamile Rupeikaite" <kamile.rupeikaite@jmmuseum.lt>
Cc: <g.museumdir@aivanet.lt>
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 11:10 PM
Subject: RACHEL KOSTANIAN: URGENT

From: The Rt Hon. Sir Martin Gilbert <sirmartingilbert@yahoo.co.uk>

Wednesday, 30 June 2010

RACHEL KOSTANIAN

Dear Kamile Rupeikaite,

As a friend of Markas and Emanuelis Zingeris, I am concerned at the precipitate action that you are taking against Rachel Kostanian. This email is a formal request for her to be allowed to stay at her post. As I believe you are aware, she is about to be the subject of a special article in the Canadian Jewish News about women who across the ages have made their contribution to Jewish life — in her case to Jewish education and memory. This article will have a wide circulation, and will bring credit to the work that you and Markas are doing (work which will of course be acknowledged in the article).

As a member of the Lithuanian Commission on Nazi and Communist Crimes, I feel a particular concern that Rachel Kostanian should be allowed to continue with her work at the Green House. It would be a blow to Lithuania's place in the world of Holocaust teaching and memory if she were to be sent away in this abrupt manner (while, I believe, Markas in out of the country).

The short (48-hour) time span you have given her is in clear violation of European Union employment rules, and would have to be taken to the European Court, with a resulting black mark for Lithuania, which surely cannot be your intention. It would also be raised with the Lithuanian Government by Rachel Kostanian's many friends abroad who have benefitted from her work.

I am copying this to Markas, who will I am sure agree to allow Rachel to continue her work. If she has made some mistake, you should accept her apology, and continue to gain - especially overseas - from her work and high reputation.

Yours sincerely

(Sir) Martin Gilbert