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1st BLOG POST (2nd Blog Post Below)

7 Cheshvan, 5777
November 8, 2016

As Jews, we should not be airing our differences in public.

It is truly unfortunate that due to the underhandedness of those who are sowing discord among Jews in Lithuania, while loudly professing their innocence, there is a need to clarify the sad truth about the real, underlying reasons for the current 'conflict' being artificially created here, so that the true motives will become revealed to all.

ALL OF THE CONFLICT IN LITHUANIA IS EXCLUSIVELY DUE TO THE MACHINATIONS RELATED TO MONOPOLIZING THE RESTITUTION FUNDS!

The History:

A few years ago, The *Good Will Foundation* was created to distribute funds restituted by the Lithuanian government in lieu of pre-World War II Jewish RELIGIOUS Communal property, in memory of the Jews killed here during World War II.

Regrettably, there is a very long history of the underhanded acts against the work of Chabad Lithuania by the leadership of the Jewish Community of Lithuania with the support of Andrew Baker of the American Jewish Committee (the second co-chair of the GWF) which began many years before this Foundation was created...but let me begin with the latest news...

The Latest News:

In the past ten days there have sadly been incidents that undermine the unity of the Jews of Lithuania, which is very troubling, as we all need to do our utmost to foster unity among all Jews here, especially after the Holocaust.

Refer to the calling of police to prevent us from praying in unison in the community building on October 28th, 2016, after the closing of the only Synagogue in Vilna on that date (under the guise of 'repairs')...just after the unified, truly beautiful holiday celebrations of the past month in the

Very sadly, there are NUMEROUS examples of the anti-democratic practices, as well as many blatant examples of the lack of transparency of the GWF co-chairs.

[The connection between the machinations related to the GWF funding and the calling of police to prevent us from praying with the regular Minyan will be clarified in full detail in the upcoming posts on this blog, please G-d].

This blogspot will point out examples of the discriminatory practices of the co-chairs of the GWF, as noted above, by providing factual examples.

Example ONE:

Lack of transparency of co-chairs of the GWF:

Background: A few months ago, the Chairwoman of the Lithuanian Jewish Community told me that she could not share the full overall numbers of the total amounts of money received and distributed by the GWF to date, as it was PRIVATE!

In an April, 2016 email communication with Andrew Baker, the other co-chair of the GWF, I repeatedly asked the same question, and never received a response.

Imagine, restitution monies given to rebuild Jewish life in memory of our brethren murdered in cold blood here during World War II, and simple accountability questions are left unanswered, and we are told that the information requested is private?

Below is a copy of the email which I sent on this past Sunday, November 6, to the co-chairs of the GWF:

Dear Andy and Faina,

Hope this note finds both of you well.

In our last joint correspondence in April 2016, I **repeatedly** asked for the following information, which to date - SIX months later - you have still not furnished, for which reason I again ask:

In the name of transparency - please can you furnish the following information: a) the *total* amount of funds received by the Good Will Foundation from the Lithuanian government for *each* of the past two years (2014 and 2015) the *total* amount distributed by the Good Will Foundation for *each* of these two years

finally received a response saying, that the amounts allotted by the Lithuanian Government are public record and that the GWF website has a list of the the allocations.

Below is the response I sent to that email:

Let me ask the question differently:

Are there any allocations of ANY SORT (scholarships or similar) that have been given out that are not reported on the website, yes or no?

Awaiting your timely response.

Yesterday morning I received another reply from Andrew Baker which was again unclear and written in a ambiguous manner.

So I sent yet another request:

The question once again is:

*Have there been ANY additional allocations of any sort (scholarships?) that have been allotted *in addition* to the total amount of allocations detailed on the GWF website?*

My question is NOT about any of the allocations reported on the site...am asking if there have been any other allocations OUTSIDE of those allocations...

An unambiguous, yes or no response would be greatly appreciated, as we have yet to clarify this simple question now for some six months in numerous emails...

Thank you.

This morning Andrew Baker responded with: **Why do you want to know?**

This, after six months of asking for full disclosure from the GWF...and this is the response we get?

We await a clear and unequivocal YES or NO response, or will assume that there is indeed truth to the rumors in Lithuania that 'secret' scholarships have been awarded by the GWF...

Then the question becomes, for whose benefit were these secret scholarships awarded, and why?

2nd Blog POST

12 Cheshvan, 5777
November 13, 2016

We are beginning to make slow progress.

□

A. After numerous additional emails back and forth with Andy Baker and Faina Kuklianski (who was copied on all the correspondence but has not responded at all), the co-chairs of the Good Will Foundation, we have finally learned:

1. Yes, there were Good Will Foundation restitution funds given to the Lithuanian Jewish Community which were used for individual scholarships.

We have asked a number of times for the full list of scholarships, including: recipient, amount and purpose. **To date, no response.**

2. It appears from Andy Baker's responses in the email correspondence that there are (numerous?) additional funds given by the GWF to the Lithuanian Jewish Community (further LJC) that are NOT listed on the list of allocations on the GWF website.

We have asked over and over for the exact number of funds given for each year since 2014 from the GWF to the LJC, and in response have only received confusing mathematical equations of sums in Litas, the currency Lithuania STOPPED using at the end of 2014!

We await a response.

EXAMPLE TWO

The next example of the serious discriminatory practices of the co-chairs of the GWF:

GWF Board Membership

Below is a copy of the email I sent today to the co-chairs of the GWF which articulates the issue:

more than a year and a half:

2. Andy, you will certainly recall that I was originally a member of the 'Ad Hoc Committee" for the restitution process back in 2002/2003. This committee was intended to be the first incarnation of what would become the committee/foundation for the restitution funds.

In June, 2003 I was unceremoniously removed from this Ad Hoc Committee.

In our correspondence of March/April 2016 you FINALLY responded, Andy, by saying that Chabad Lithuania having representation on the board of the GWF would not change anything...

To put your response in perspective and to point out how it absolutely flies in the face of basic fairness and democratic norms:

It is like saying that the Democrats don't need representation in the US Congress as they will be in the minority, and "it won't change anything"...it's suggesting that any minority view/party on any board/government is not needed as it won't make a difference...

It is time for this gross injustice to be corrected, now.

Thank you.

Andy Baker claims that our having representation on the GWF board would not have changed anything.

One decision we would of challenged is the deferring of half of the restitution funds received yearly for use after these annual payments run dry in 2023(?).

The GWF websites as of today list its board members as being:

1. **Andrew Eliot Baker** – Co-chair of the Board
2. **Faina Kukliansky** – Co-chair of the Board
3. **Arie Bucheister**
4. **Shmuel Levin**, Head of the Jewish religious community of Lithuania
5. **Reuven Dessler**
6. **Josifas Buršteinas**, Head of the Jewish Community of Šiauliai (Shavl)
7. **Miša Jakobas**, Head of the Vilnius Sholom Aleichem ORT school
8. **Stefan Oskar**, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
9. **Nachliel Dison**, World Jewish Restitution Organization
10. **Markas Zingeris**, Head of the Vilnius Gaon Jewish state museum

We reached out to Stefan Oscar of the JDC (number 7 in the list) who advised that he has left this board in April of this year.

It's more than SIX MONTHS now...why hasn't his name been removed?

representative on the GWF board with the following questions:

Were you at the meeting for the allocations made by the GWF for 2016, and if yes, who attended? How about for 2014 and 2015?

What are the allocations (for scholarships?) that were made through the Jewish Community of Lithuania which are NOT on the list of allocations on the GWF website?

His response?

He consulted with other members of the board and these issues are beyond his capacity to address!

Which leads one to ask: **What is the exact role of board members on the GWF? Who exactly makes funding decisions? Why can't they tell us who attended GWF allocations meetings!!!**

EXAMPLE THREE

GWF Funding

The most obvious injustice: Chabad Lithuania has NOT to date received ANY funding from the GWF. NOTHING!

Below is a screenshot from today of the list of all of the requests Chabad Lithuania and our Menachemo namu Gymnasium gave in this year to the GWF, and all the zeros indicating the discriminatory lack of funding:



[https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-RE2zKym_4F4/WChXp6oBm7I/AAAAAAAAACdY/R8s-jNyskjcgQCabdISA5aVvQuejZ6ZcgCLcB/s1600/Screenshot%2B%252857%2529.png]



[<https://4.bp.blogspot.com/-TafUuKqI8cE/WChXtdkeVsl/AAAAAAAAACdc/wD8SCPH-EuUvvoMtWjAU0PeFaOaahyOkgCLcB/s1600/Screenshot%2B%252858%2529.png>]

To put this blatant discrimination in context:

1. Here is a partial list of the institutions and multi-faceted RELIGIOUS work with which Chabad Lithuania has been serving Jews throughout Lithuania since 1994:

1. Day School (12 Grades)

2. Early Childhood Centre

3. Home for Children at Risk

4. Social Welfare Centre & Soup Kitchen

5. Holiday Programming (community wide, in all major cities across Lithuania)

6. Mikvah

7. Outreach to Outlying Communities

8. Adult Education

9. Religious Services (Bris, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Chupa, Jewish Burial, etc.)

10. Summer & Winter Camps

11. Youth Activities

12. Kosher Food Services

13. Tourist Services

14. Shabbat Services

15. Women's Activities

16. Counselling

17. Drug and Intoxication

The full name of the GWF is: The Foundation for Disposal of Good Will Compensation for the Immovable Property of Jewish Religious Communities.

Chabad Lithuania has been single-handedly doing the Religious communal work in Lithuania for the past 22 years.

This religious work has received absolutely no funds to date from the GWF!

What has instead received funding from the Foundation for "disposal of the immoveable property of RELIGIOUS Communities? According to the GWF website (The English version of which only list allocations for 2016, the Lithuanian page does not indicate years at all...):

1. **193,174 Euro** - Project of media and strengthening public relations, international events and abilities Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community connection to
2. **22,600 Euro** - Development of the activities of the Lithuanian sports club Makabi
3. **43,753 Euro** - The YIVO Vilna Project – A preservation and access project of the YIVO prewar collections in New York and Lithuania
4. **29,000 Euro** - Monument to Mahatma Gandhi and Hermann Kallenbach Rusne, Silute district.
5. **28,962 Euro** - Concert of the Israel Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra
6. **2700 Euro** - Promoting cultural exchanges for the Lithuania and Israel Jewish communities of LGBT
7. **209,786 Euro** Lithuanian Jewish community infrastructure and building administration

This is but a tiny sampling of the allocations which are listed on the GWF website, not including the funds given by the GWF to the LJC which have not been made public.

So the question is: WHY THE BLATANT DISCRIMINATION??

There is a lot more to write on this subject, but there are also more sinister, troublesome issues which I will please G-d share in the near that will help shed light on the true reasons for the above discrimination...

In closing:

Dynamic Views theme. Powered by [Blogger](#).

Jews of Lithuania.

The Jews murdered here in cold blood during World War II deserve that these restituted funds be distributed in a truly transparent and democratic manner.

Posted 7th November 2016 by Rabbi Sholom Ber Krinsky

1 [View comments](#)



Dainius Junevicius [November 8, 2016 at 8:38 AM](#)

<http://gvf.lt/en/2016/07/01/list-of-project-allocations/>

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