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Post 5: Rabbis For...Restitution?

5th post

Background on recent events in Vilnius, including recent calling of police to prevent Jews from joining a prayer service:

Motzie Shabbos, 18 Cheshvan, 5777

November 19, 2016

There is an unfortunate Chazakah of the Lithuanian Jewish Community (LJC) bringing rabbis to this country exclusively to use them to try to help the leadership of this organization monopolize and control restitution funds.

EXAMPLE 1:

My wife and I first arrived in Lithuania in February 1994 only to find out that we were entering a quagmire.

The Lithuanian Jewish Community had sent a letter to Chabad Headquarters asking for a rabbi to run the only Shul in Vilna. Sounds innocent enough?

Only after settling in here did we learn that the LJC didn't legally run the Shul, and that they invited us with the intention that we would help them wrestle control of the Shul from the Vilnius Jewish Religious Community, a *separate legal entity* that ran the Synagogue independently of the LJC at that time.

Turns out that the Lithuanian Government was working on restitution of pre-World War II property **exclusively to religious communities** which previously owned them, which the LJC, as a newly formed organization (1989?) with no pre-World War II history, was not in a position to claim.

Hence, bringing a rabbi to try 'secure' control of the religious community...

Fast forward to 2003/4

By this time the LJC leadership had managed to gain control of the Vilnius Jewish Religious Community and thereby of the Synagogue.

But now a new problem arose.

Negotiations were underway for a significantly larger restitution package, which again would be based on property restitution for communal property of pre-World War II to RELIGIOUS communities...

So what was the problem, you ask?

They already controlled the Synagogue and religious community which legally ran it!

The problem was CHABAD LITHUANIA!

For since our arrival we had been active countrywide with institutions and extensive programming that were RELIGIOUS in nature...and we were the only ones doing it! We were also building up Synagogue attendance, I was functioning as the de facto rabbi there for years...

How was the LJC leadership to exclude us from the restitution?

Or better put, how were they going to LEGITIMIZE their monopolization of funds restituted for RELIGIOUS communal property when they weren't doing religious work...how were they going to be able to EXCLUDE Chabad Lithuania who were singularly doing this work:

They came up with two simple steps:

A. They (Andy Baker and the then leader of the LJC) removed me from the Ad Hoc Committee for restitution (detailed in a previous blog post below)

B. They brought in another rabbi, pushed us out of the Synagogue after provoking a scandal, made a fictitious split of the community, and finally barred us from entering the Synagogue with hired guards...

Why another rabbi?

To be able to legitimize the monopolization of the forthcoming restitution funds by saying: "We have our rabbi, we are doing religious work...no need to fund the work of Chabad Lithuania"...

EXAMPLE 3

The problem was the same as in the past. The restitution funds were being granted for RELIGIOUS communal property...but the LJC had NEVER engaged in religious work...what to do?

This time they decided to bring in two rabbis...but they had a problem, as we were already back in the Synagogue and doing exactly what we had done before they provoked the scandal in 2004...

And our activities and institutions - though bloodied, downsized and crippled due to their ongoing attacks and sabotage efforts - were still up and running successfully...

The LJC chairwoman actually told me this clearly...why should we fund you...we have OUR RABBIS who will do religious work for us...the message here being: we will continue to discriminate against Chabad Lithuania from restitution funds as we have "our rabbis".

The LJC leadership's frustration therefore increased as attempts to provoke a scandal (as in 2004) were unsuccessful. The recent Tishrie holidays were beautiful and unified, despite the newest attempts at creating division, clearly on instruction from LJC leadership...

So in her frustration and anger, the LJC chairwoman called the police to bar us from entering the prayers at the community center.

For an accurate portrayal of the Synagogue closing:

<http://defendinghistory.com/a-confusing-week-in-jewish-vilnius/84408>

<http://defendinghistory.com/friday-october-28th-in-vilnius/84606>

<http://defendinghistory.com/divide-and-conquer/84732>)

<http://defendinghistory.com/where-barring-a-jew-from-synagogue-services-becomes-a-human-rights-issue/84523>

The LJC chairwoman has for years been attacking and undermining the work of Chabad Lithuania, but always thru others (as detailed in previous blog posts below).

This time she actually showed her face, personally calling the police, and personally barring us from entering the prayers....).

The LJC chairwoman is now laughably trying (as was attempted in 2004) to use the 200 year old dispute between Chassidim and their opponents as backdrop and smokescreen for her real intentions: to monopolize the restitution funds (as I have documented below in early blog posts).

2. The 5th and 6th Rebbe of Chabad had a very warm and close working relationship with Rabbi Chaim Ozer Grodzinski, the spiritual leader of Litvaks who passed away on the eve of World War II.

3. Anyone who knows anything of the activities of the LJC over the past decades knows that they were NOT kosher, and were (mostly) completely contrary to the spirit of everything holy to Torah-true Litvak Jewry!

(For further proof of the above statement one need not look further than the projects being supported by the restitution funds from the Good Will Foundation, which includes monies allocated to gay and lesbian organizations, a statue for Ghandi and the like, as detailed here: [http://gvf.lt/fondas/projektai/statistika/...](http://gvf.lt/fondas/projektai/statistika/)).

To conclude: Rabbis are not meant to be puppets, and certainly they have no mandate to be legitimizing the LJC chairwoman's campaign to harm and undermine the work of Chabad Lithuania in order to monopolize restitution funds - as described in earlier blog posts below.

Shame on those who support the ridiculous claims of the chairwoman of the LJC and her 'restitution rabbis' **only** for reasons of *sinat chinam* - senseless and baseless hate (and jealousy) of a fellow Jew.

There is absolutely NO historical basis for dividing Jews today, after the giants of previous generations came together in unity for generations.

Posted 19th November 2016 by Rabbi Sholom Ber Krinsky

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