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Sadly the situation with the current head of the Lithuanian Jewish Community is rapidly becoming more troubling and untenable by the day.

Below is a copy of the letter I sent to the community chairwoman on Sunday, Dec 25th:

Dear Faina,

Let me begin by inviting you and your family to join hundreds of thousands of Jews worldwide who participate and enjoy public Menorah lightings in thousands of cities, by inviting you to participate in the Grand Menorah Lighting in Vilnius at Kudirkos Square on Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 17:00.

It is obvious to all that any Jewish communal leadership position demands first and foremost the ability to be ready and willing to put the needs of the community before one's own.

In light of the above, it was truly troubling when the content of some of the recent Chanukah articles on the community's site Izb.lt [<http://Izb.lt/>] were brought to my attention, in which you claim to follow the Vilna Gaon and Litvak legacy, and hypocritically attempt to legitimize being against Chabad, by falsely attempting to claim that Chabad is somehow challenging this legacy....

The above is laughable, because anyone who knows a bit about Jewish history will tell you that the dispute against Chassidim ended at least 170 plus years ago, when the Tzemach Tzedek (third Rebbe of Chabad), was joined by Reb Yitzchak of Valozhin, (leader of Litvak Jewry and second generation spiritual heir to the Vilna Gaon) in jointly opposing the Czarist regime's attempts to force changes on traditional, Torah-true Judaism.

In addition, the 5th and 6th Rebbes of Chabad had a very warm and close working relationship with Rabbi Chaim Ozer Grodzinski, the spiritual leader of Vilna Jewry who passed away on the eve of World War II.

How to explain the brazen hypocrisy and Chutzpah of trying to claim the legacy of 600 years of Litvak history and that of the Vilna Gaon - who lived holy lives based solely on Torah and Halacha (Jewish law) - while the largest percent of activities advertised on the same site are the antithesis of everything that is dear and holy not only to true Litvak Jewry and the

search for the G-dly and good in each individual and situation, irrelevant of their previous actions, allow me to express the following hope and prayer:

That the office which you currently hold be given the proper respect by assuring that you no longer use it as a stage for creating fictitious conflict for personal control of restitution funds and the like.

Speaking of restitution funds: The lzb.lt [<http://lzb.lt/>] posts in which you attempt to blame Chabad Lithuania for that which you are trying to do (split the community) and the shameless posting of the Sodra debt of our school are further proof that the office of chair of the Jewish Community of Lithuania is being abused.

A transformation of the sort mentioned above is imperative to forge the united front and unity that the Jews of Lithuania, past and present, crave and deserve, and is absolutely vital for one who wishes to claim the mantle of a true communal leader.

With wishes for a frielichen Chanukah to you and your family,
Rabbi Sholom B. Krinsky

Did I get a response you ask? Well, most people respond openly and with clarity when having been taken to task in this manner...if claims are not true the simply deny and clarify etc...but not in the Former Soviet Union... regrettably in these parts of the world when it comes to money, some people who are hellbent on controlling funds of this sort for personal gain make the obvious mistake of acting more sinisterly and underhandedly when unmasked...

No surprise then that we were advised today that there just happens to be a new article with seemingly 'Anti-Semitic' and anti-Chabad overtones that just "happens" to be against the public Menorah Lightings in the city center here, saying that they should be done in the Synagogue, just as the community's site has been, as described in the above letter and my most recent post [here](http://rabbikrinsky.blogspot.lt/2016/12/demand-for-immediate-resignation-of-gwf.html) [<http://rabbikrinsky.blogspot.lt/2016/12/demand-for-immediate-resignation-of-gwf.html>] .

(above), to which she has no response.

In closing, I challenge you Faina to go on the record and publicly deny your involvement in having this article come out at this time.

Shamefully, you orchestrated the publication of this article now to try to make public officials wary of attending the Vilnius Grand Menorah Lighting Ceremony to which I invited you, as after my above copied email you can no longer continue to try to sow division amongst the Jews in Lithuania regarding this issue, as you have been proven to be grossly hypocritical.

The restitution fund from RELIGIOUS communal property of our murdered brethren is NOT a personal Baker-Kuklianski fund.

You and Andy Baker, the co-chairs of the so called Good Will Foundation, need to resign from this Fund immediately due to your undisguised, flagrant discrimination against Chabad Lithuania, which is the source of the dire financial standing of our school and overall work in Lithuania.

Your outright abuse of your role of community chairwoman as shown above in [my most recent blog post \[http://rabbikrinsky.blogspot.lt/2016/12/demand-for-immediate-resignation-of-gwf.html\]](http://rabbikrinsky.blogspot.lt/2016/12/demand-for-immediate-resignation-of-gwf.html) is clear proof that you and your co-chair are unable to continue this farce of using restitution funds to undermine and destroy religious Jewish life in Lithuania.

Posted 28th December 2016 by Rabbi Sholom Ber Krinsky



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