

MK Shuli Moalem-Refaeli

ח"כ שולי מועלם-רפאלי

י"ר סיעת הבית היהודי

12/9/2018

Dear President Grybauskaite,

We were extremely upset to hear about plans that the Government of Lithuania intends to renew the use of the destroyed structure in the ancient cemetery of Vilnius (Vilna) and use it as a convention center. Its foundations are the burial site of our rabbis, our righteous holy leaders and good people who serve as sources of inspiration and guides for the Jewish people to this very day.

Shinipishek (Piramont) cemetery in Vilnius contains the remains of tens of thousands of holy Jews, residents of the city of Vilnius (Vilna) for generations.

This act desecrates the honor of the dead and the glorious history of the city of Vilna. The city was so important to our people that it was termed "Jerusalem D'Lita" as it was a metropolis of sages and writers, the greatest of the world's wise men who with the fire of their spirit and their leadership illuminated the entire diaspora of Eastern Europe.

The plans that we have heard about would seriously offend the entire Jewish nation. We therefore wholeheartedly request, out of respect for the Jewish nation and its values, that you do all that you can to cancel the plan to make this site a convention center. We are sure that you can find a reasonable alternative.

Respectfully

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