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Dear Sir,

The Trust for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries – Charity number 1073225 – Serious Incident Report – URGENT

We have been instructed to make a serious incident report on behalf of the above named charity (the “Charity”)

The Charity’s objects are:

“The advancement of the orthodox Jewish religion generally and in particular the preservation of Jewish burial sites through the world so as to ensure that they are looked after and dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Jewish religion and Jewish religious law”.

Put simply it is alleged that this Charity in collaboration, for payment, to the further destruction through development of the old Vilna Jewish Cemetery in the Snipiskes district of the modern Vilnius, the Capital of Lithuania (See Lithuania liveliest Cemetery” The Times of Israel 13.12.15). This proposed development has been met with universal protest and condemnation by the international Jewish Community. This includes an international petition which currently contains 43,000 signatures, a letter from 12 Congressmen, oppositions from the 12 greatest Lithuanian origin rabbis and a letter from Shmuel Rabinowitz, Rabbi of the Western Wall and Holy Sites to the President of Lithuania dated 1.2.18.

We set below for ease of reference a list of hyperlinks which demonstrates the scale of opposition.

We would expect this story to break in the British press shortly and though it advisable to give you advance notice.

1. International Expressions of Opposition:

International petition on Change.org authored by Ms. Ruta Bloshtein, Vilnius, having achieved 43,706 signatures (by midday of 14 June 2018):

<https://www.change.org/p/hon-dalia-grybauskaite-please-move-new-vilnius-convention-center-project-away-from-the-old-jewish-cemetery>

Letter from 12 members of the United States Congress to the president of Lithuania (28 July 2017):

<http://defendinghistory.com/12-us-congressmen-call-on-lithuanias-president-to-move-convention-center-project-away-from-old-vilna-jewish-cemetery/89344>

Simon Gurevich (Simonas Gurevicius), elected chairperson of the Vilnius Jewish Community (representing the city’s remaining 2,200 Jewish citizens), speaking to the *New York Times* (30 March 2018):

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/30/world/europe/lithuania-genocide-museum-jews.html>

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre (18 May 2017):

<http://www.wiesenthal.com/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=IsKWLbPJLnF&b=8776547&ct=14995975>

Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations (19 April 2017):

Jewish
 Birmingham
 Cambridge
 Leeds
 London

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=748&v=BC6DiBvNu20

The Kaunas Jewish Religious Community (5 Nov. 2015):

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1485558648417104&id=1422844431355193

2. Opposition/condemnation by rabbinic institutions and office-holding rabbis internationally:

Rabbi Chaim Burshtein, Chief Rabbi of Lithuania at the time of the 2015 agreement of CPJCE with Lithuanian government (11 August 2015):

<http://defendinghistory.com/lithuanias-chief-rabbi-issues-statement-opposing-convention-center-project-at-the-old-vilna-jewish-cemetery/76174>

Rabbi S.J. Feffer, head of separate, independent rabbinic authority in Vilnius (31 Jan. 2017):

<http://defendinghistory.com/rabbi-s-j-feffer-authority-on-gaon-of-vilna-issues-ruling-on-vilniuss-old-jewish-cemetery/86144>

Chief Rabbi of the State of Israel (7 Jan. 2018):

<http://defendinghistory.com/chief-rabbi-of-israel-pleads-with-lithuanian-president-to-abandon-plans-for-convention-center-on-the-old-vilna-jewish-cemetery/92705#facsimile>

Rabbi of the Western Wall and the Holy Sites of Israel (1 Feb. 2018):

<http://defendinghistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Rabbi-Rainowitz-Feb-2018-PIRAMONT.pdf>

United statement by the twelve leading Lithuanian-origin (Litvak) Deans of rabbinical academies (heads of yeshivas) internationally (July 2015):

<http://defendinghistory.com/12-leading-heads-of-yeshivas-call-on-lithuania-to-halt-piramont-snipiskes-cemetery-desecration/75855>

Delegation of leading rabbis from around the world that came to Lithuania in August of 2015 to plead for a reprieve for the cemetery (26 August 2015):

<http://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/headlines-breaking-stories/338074/international-rabbinic-delegation-travels-to-vilnius-to-plea-for-the-cancellation-of-development-plans-on-the-snipiskes-cemetery.html>

Delegation of leading rabbis meet with the Consul General of Lithuania in New York City to plead for the cemetery and cancellation of the convention centre plans (report of 23 Feb. 2017):

<http://www.5tjt.com/a-grave-matter-in-vilna/>

Central Rabbinic Congress of the United States and Canada (2 July 2015):

<http://defendinghistory.com/central-rabbinical-congress-of-the-usa-and-canada-protests-desecration-of-old-vilna-jewish-cemetery75013/75013#translation>

High Rabbinical Court and Grand Rabbi of (Zalmanite) Satmar Hasidism London (14 Aug. 2015):

<http://defendinghistory.com/satmar-grand-rabbi-and-rabbinical-court-call-on-lithuanian-gov-to-abandon-convention-center-in-old-vilna-jewish-cemetery/75347>

Rabbi Tsvi Rotberg, dean of Yeshivath Beth Meir in Israel (25 September 2016):

<http://defendinghistory.com/world-famous-litvak-rabbi-condemns-plans-for-congress-center-in-old-vilna-jewish-cemetery/84201>

3. Opposition/condemnation by professors and scholars:

Professor Pinchos Fridberg, Vilnius (25 June 2015):

<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/dancing-on-jewish-graves-in-vilna/>

Professor Bernard Fryshman, New York (3 July 2015):

<http://defendinghistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Bernard-Fryshmans-July-3rd-2015-Op-ed-in-Yated-Neeman.pdf> ; Follow-up (23 June 2016):

<http://defendinghistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/FRYSHMAN-20162-2.pdf>

Professor Dovid Katz, Vilnius (13 Dec. 2015):

<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/lithuanias-liveliest-cemetery/>

Associate Professor Andrius Kulikauskas, Vilnius (4 Jan. 2016):

<http://www.veidas.lt/isardykime-sporto-rumus-atsaukime-svetingumo-atsaukima>

Professor Sidney Leiman, New York (13 Sept. 2015):

<http://seforim.blogspot.com/2015/09/lithuanian-government-announces.html>

Professor Josifas Parasonis, Vilnius (28 July 2015):

<https://www.alfa.lt/straipsnis/49886154/del-vilniaus-sporto-rumu-esanciu-snipiskiu-zydu-kapiniu-teritorijoje-funkcines-paskirties>

Mr. Julius Norwilla, former Protestant minister and moral philosopher, in speech at the Lithuanian Embassy in Tel Aviv (24 May 2017):

<http://defendinghistory.com/julius-norwillas-speech-at-the-lithuanian-embassy-in-tel-aviv/88685>

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Stone King LLP