



THE WEEKLY OF VILNIUS

Issue # 391

Monday - Week of March 30 - April 5, 2020

Vilnius, Lithuania



Week in Review

SOCIETY & OTHER:

02/04/2020: Defending History: “Lithuania’s Supreme Administrative Court Reconfirms ‘National Hero’ Status of Holocaust Collaborator J. Noreika”

Defending history, a web journal combating Holocaust revisionism in Eastern Europe, published a report under the headline “*Lithuania’s Supreme Administrative Court Reconfirms ‘National Hero’ Status of Holocaust Collaborator J. Noreika*”.

Defending History writes that “*Vilnius’s Supreme Administrative Court yesterday issued its dismissal of the appeal against an earlier court ruling that effectively codified in Lithuanian law the conclusion that Holocaust collaborator Jonas Noreika is indeed a national hero. The Noreika saga reached the English-speaking world in 2012, when Evaldas Balciunas’s article appeared in Defending History. Mr. Balčiūnas followed up with articles on other perpetrators glorified by the state and was harassed by years of kangaroo prosecutions (scroll down to May 2014, further articles following). Thereafter, challenges were mounted both here and abroad to state-sponsored glorification, in a NATO/EU state, of a proven Holocaust collaborator. These have included Californian-resident wealth adviser Grant Gochin, Vilnius-resident Lithuanian-American scholar Dr. Andrius Kulikauskas, who curates a website on the subject, and, most sensationally, Noreika’s own American-born granddaughter, the Chicago-based author and educator Silvia Foti, whose 2018 article in Salon led to international media coverage and work on a feature film project. The current court ruling was in response to the case brought by Mr. Gochin, many of whose relatives perished in the part of Lithuania where Noreika operated, and for which the research was done by Dr. Kulikauskas and Mr. Balčiūnas. Last spring, the case resulted in the government-sponsored Genocide Center issuing a far-right Holocaust revisionist manifesto.*”

Defending history also notes that “*Yesterday’s court decision has been widely flaunted, without substantive counterarguments, on Lithuania’s major news portals, including Alkas.lt, Diena.lt, Delfi.lt, Lrt.lt (in English), among others.*”



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It also states that *“Observers here see the appeal court’s decision in favor of glorification of a Holocaust perpetrator as part of a new drive by government and academic elites in Lithuania. Last autumn, the nation’s new elected president called for a moratorium on discussion after the new Noreika plaque was affixed. And, early this year, the Ministry of Defense’s official magazine Karys (The Warrior) carried a front page photo and article glorifying Kazys Škirpa, one of the major advocates of the ethnic cleansing of Lithuania’s Jewish citizens in 1941.”*

Here is the link to the full article on Defending History website:

<http://defendinghistory.com/vilnius-appeals-court-rejects-challenge-to-holocaust-collaborator-j-noreikas-status-as-national-hero/102252>

It should be noted, that Lithuania media (ELTA news agency) on April 1 reported that *“the Lithuanian Supreme Administrative Court dismissed a suit lodged by US-resident Litvak Grant Gochin against the Center for the Study of the Genocide and Resistance of Residents of Lithuania.*

ELTA reports said the panel of judges rejected Grant Gochin’s demand the Genocide Center retract an historical finding they issued earlier on the person of Jonas Noreika during a hearing on April 1.

The court’s finding isn’t subject to appeal.”