

4/10/23

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Honourable Ingrida Šimonytė, Prime Minister of Lithuania
Honourable Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Lithuanian Seimas,

We are writing to make clear that Rabbi Elchonon Baron does not represent us and may not speak on our behalf.

Rabbi Sarel Rosenberg has likewise stated that Rabbi Baron does not represent him and may not speak on his behalf .

We include Rabbi Rosenberg's letter to that effect. Rabbi Rosenberg serves as our Jewish legal (Halachic) authority regarding the Snipiskes cemetery, and was authorized to do so by the recently deceased Rabbi Gershon Edelstein, who was the leading rabbi of the worldwide Lithuanian Orthodox Jewish Community .

We do not share Rabbi Baron's assessment of our cooperative partnership with the government. We, along with Rabbi Rosenberg, recognize the inclusion by the Government of the Orthodox Jewish perspective on the Snipiskes working group, and are grateful for the openness of the Lithuanian government to find a solution that respects Halacha. We are further grateful to the Prime Minister for her direction to make this hallowed site a place of Jewish memory.

We are encouraged by the broader cooperative relationship established via the December 2022 MOU between the Conference of European Rabbis (CER) and the chair of the Lithuanian Jewish Community and the Good Will Foundation, which committed them to working together on the preservation of cemeteries and on the restoration of Jewish religious life in Lithuania. Towards this end we are in close contact with Faina Kukliansky and Rabbi Andrew Baker .

Joining us in our appreciation are Rabbi Moshe Hauer, Executive Vice President of the Orthodox Union of the United States, and Rabbi Warren Goldstein, Chief Rabbi of S. Africa, with whom our efforts are constantly coordinated.

We appreciate that further communication on these issues, whether to Rabbi Rosenberg of Israel or to us, will continue to be done through the offices of the CER, represented by Rabbi Moshe Lebel, allowing the Government of Lithuania a single address with which to communicate.

Rabbi Moshe Lebel Conference of European Rabbis (CER)

