

From: Rabbi Baron
Date: Wed, Nov 1, 2023 at 5:05 PM
Subject: Why is Vilna's only Synagogue closed for over 3 weeks?
To: [recipients' list deleted]

I am bringing to your attention that out of 165 Synagogues that once flourished in my beloved Vilna (all traditional, as Reform had no foothold in Lithuania), only one active Synagogue remains. The lone Synagogue of Vilna has now been closed for "security reasons" since the Lithuanian-Holocaust style massacre in Israel 3 weeks ago. I am struggling to understand this. Lithuania, an EU and NATO country with such a tortured shared history with the Jewish people, is unable to secure its one and only functioning Synagogue? Lithuania successfully secured a NATO summit of world leaders several months ago, but one Synagogue cannot be secured? Are present day Lithuanians so very dangerous?

Is there perhaps another reason that the Synagogue is closed while all other Jewish organisations continue to function, and pro-Israel rallies are held in the open? Does it perhaps have to do with "Chairwoman" Faina Kukliansky's political maneuvering, under the cover of a terrible war in Israel? Are she (and her US business partner) paid 3.7 million euros yearly (and an additional 1.7 million euros from Germany through the Claims Conference) to suppress all Jewish religious life and heritage in Lithuania? Almost all religious Jews in Vilna already avoid the Synagogue because of her politicization of religion. Is she perhaps trying to snuff out the last remnant of official Jewish religion in Vilna? Does it also help with her longstanding feud with Chabad Rabbi Krinsky (she recently orchestrated his wife's arrest)?

How long will the government of Lithuania hide their face in the ground and act as if they have nothing to do with bankrolling the ongoing destruction of Jewish Heritage and religion in Lithuania, including Synagogues (as with the Vilna Shulhof) and cemeteries (like the morally despicable plan to turn the Shnipishok cemetery into a museum)? I will not remain silent, no matter how many groups and people the Lithuanian government manages to pay off and silence through their well-paid proxies. This systematic and endemic antisemitism practiced by successive Lithuanian governments (not the Lithuanian people, who are in my experience generally sympathetic) has to end. Now is an excellent time, when so much hatred to the Jewish people is rearing its ugly head worldwide.

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