



The Arnold and Leona Finkler
Institute of Holocaust Research
Faculty of Jewish Studies
Bar-Ilan University

18 September 2025

Šarūnas Birutis, Esq.

The Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania

Ministry of Culture

J. Basanavičiaus 5 Vilnius 01118 , Lithuania

Subject: Research request for permission for non-invasive geo-radar survey of public spaces only on the site of Old Vilnius Jewish Cemetery in Šnipiškės, Vilnius

Dear Minister Birutis,

My name is Meir Bulka, I am a researcher at Bar-Ilan University, at the Institute for Holocaust Research in Israel. I also serve as president of J-nerations, a foundation for the preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, based in Lublin, that has in recent years expanded its research and documentation work throughout the successor states of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Kingdom of Poland, including modern Lithuania and Ukraine.

Our research focuses on Jewish communities that largely ceased to exist following the crimes of Nazi Germany during the Holocaust and the despotic, evil, Soviet occupation after World War II.

A central part of our work concerns the history of the Jewish community of Vilnius with special attention to its religious, social, and cultural heritage. In this framework, we also examine the connections of Litvaks and their influence on the broader Jewish world of Eastern Europe.

One of our primary specialties is the demarking of historical Jewish cemeteries by way of objective scientific methodology that is totally non-intrusive and can be conducted entirely from public thoroughfares with no encroachment on any dwelling or business.

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of Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel



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It is in this connection that I approach your Excellency today, to humbly ask that the Ministry of Culture help us to gain permission to conduct a non-invasive geo-radar survey of the old Jewish cemetery in Šnipiškės to be able to determine in which areas there are still extant graves. This would cost the people and government of Lithuania nothing, while finally relying on objective science and the wonders of our times, including geo-physical ground radar, that does not do the slightest damage or even touch anything beneath the ground.

We feel confident that the results, whatever they may be, will add more light, and provide for less heat, in what has become such a serious breach of trust re the Litvaks and their progeny around the world. It would clearly show which areas are still home to interred humans, and which are not.

In the event of your ministry's gracious permission, my colleagues and I would get right to work, at no cost to Lithuania's government and institutions. This will pave the way for a new era of issue resolution by way of objective scientific study in the spirit of our enlightened times.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration of this request.

With esteem,

Meir Bulka



Bar-Ilan University

Institute for Holocaust Research

Ramat Gan, Israel

J-nerations, ul. Sądowa, nr 2/11, miejsc. LUBLIN, Poland

Tel: +972-52-6525348

Email: meirb7@gmail.com meir@j-nerations.com www.J-nerations.com

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