

# LITHUANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

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## TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AGAINST RACISM AND INTOLERANCE (ECRI)

**CC: International Federation for Human Rights  
European Human Rights Association  
President of Lithuanian Republic  
Seimas of Lithuanian Republic  
Government of Lithuanian Republic**

Remarks on the third report of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance about Lithuania  
(according to the letter of 9 June 2010 of ECRI)

The Lithuanian Human Rights Association made itself familiar with the third report of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (24-06-2005) about Lithuania and essentially agrees on it.

The guidelines specified in the report must be implemented, as the above-mentioned report is objective, and the guidelines for the Lithuanian society are acceptable, except that part which is related to the manifestations of anti-Semitism in Lithuania.

This part of the report is to be stated in more detail, as the essential reasons for the manifestations of anti-Semitism in Lithuania have not been analyzed and revealed.

The Lithuanian Human Rights Association found out that the manifestations of anti-Semitism, mentioned in the Report, arise mainly due to the negative image of the Lithuanian nation, escalated by individual persons in the international community in respect of the citizens of the Jewish nationality.

E.g. The article “The Holocaust in Lithuania. One man’s crusade” by Paul Frysh has been published in the web site of the CNN TV news channel on 3 June 2010.

(<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/europe/06/03/lithuania.nazi.prosecutions/?hpt=C2>)

In the above-mentioned article and in the other articles, Efraim Zuroff, the citizen of Israel, the Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center office in Jerusalem, well-known in Lithuania, refers to Lithuanians as “the descendants of war criminals”.

He accuses the Lithuanian nation of the slaughter of the Jews, performed by the Germans in Lithuania during World War II. In his opinion, many Jews of Lithuania were slaughtered purportedly due to the fact that the local Lithuanians contributed to it. He has been repeating such accusations incessantly for many years.

The Association is sure that continuously nicknaming the Lithuanian nation as “the nation of criminals” does not strengthen the mutual tolerance of the citizens of the Lithuanian nation and the Jewish nation, as the accusations of such nature are biased and faulty.

It should be noted that Lithuania has lost approximately 1,200,000 or 1.2 million of its residents between 1939 and 1959 (during the German and Soviet occupations). This number constitutes about 1/3 of the residents of the prewar Lithuania, 200,000 out of which were of the Jewish nationality.

The scientists of history found out that about 2,000 – 3,000 Lithuanians, i.e. about 0.1 per cent (according to the data of the Professor of Jerusalem – Dina Porat, approximately 0.5 per cent) of the total population, directly took part in transporting and watching the citizens of the Jewish nationality, being shot. Furthermore, the criminals, almost without exception, took part in the commitment of these crimes. The author of the Jewish nationality – Markas Petuchauskas –

also confirms it in his memoirs. As the criminals exist in each nation, on the basis of these arguments, each nation could be declared as the nation of criminals.

Attention should be paid to the fact that it is concealed in all accusations that the same number of the citizens of the Lithuanian nationality saved the Jews from shooting during the years of the German occupation, with their life in risk. About 3,000 of such citizens of the Lithuanian nation are registered officially.

It should be noted that the Holocaust History Museum Yad Vashem in Jerusalem awarded the citizens of the Lithuanian nation with the name of the Righteous of the World Nations, and the Lithuanians take the second place among 32 countries of the world, which received such awards.

Thus, there is an obvious conflict between the conclusions made by these two institutions of the Jewish international communities (Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Holocaust History Museum Yad Vashem). On the one hand, the Director of Simon Wiesenthal Center - E. Zuroff – refers to the Lithuanians as “the nation of Jew-shooters”; on the other hand, the Holocaust History Museum Yad Vashem in Jerusalem awards the citizens of the Lithuanian nationality for the self-sacrifice in saving the Jews from the holocaust and marks the Lithuanians as the best, by giving them the second place among 32 countries of the world.

In this context of assessment, nicknaming the Lithuanian nation as “the nation of Jew-shooters” is based at the minimum and directed to strengthen the discord among nations.

The above-mentioned article in the web site of CNN states that the current citizens of Lithuania, most of which have been born already after World War II, are guilty for those 0.1 and 0.5 per cent of the citizens of the Lithuanian nationality, which have been no more alive, which have directly or indirectly contributed to the tragedy organized and executed by the Germans.

According to the Lithuanian Human Rights Association, such accusation is in conflict with the principles of justice, and undoubtedly leads to the self-defense of the innocent people, the outcome of the primary reaction of which to the unsound accusation is the negative disposition in respect of a this person of the Jewish nationality, as the whole nation cannot in any manner be responsible for its individual persons who have committed a crime.

It should be noted that the feature to condemn the whole nation for the crimes of individual persons has been specific only to A. Hitler and J. Stalin; however, it cannot be tolerated in the community of civilized countries.

The accusations continuously cast on the Lithuanian nation for the crimes which had been committed by the individual persons of the Lithuanian origin, raised an adequate reaction and provoked some Lithuanian organizations and social movements to begin to speak about the war crimes, which had been committed by the citizens of the Jewish nationality in Lithuania.

E.g. some people in Lithuania began to speak about and required the sentence of the citizen of the Jewish nationality – Nachman Dushanski who had organized the massive slaughter of the civilians in Rainiai, in the territory of Lithuania, on 24-25 June 1941, characteristic of cruelty, during which 73 intellectuals, jurists, politicians and other civilians had been martyred.

It has been started to require the justice in respect of Solomon Morel, the former chief executioner of the Soviet camp in Poland, who have been started to protect by Israel, irrespective of the request of Lithuania and Poland to transfer him to court.

Also, it has been started to require the sentence of the citizens of the Jewish nationality – Yitzhak Arad, Fania Brantsovsky and Rachel Margolis, as these citizens (former Soviet guerrillas) have organized the massive slaughter of civilians in Kaniūkai Village, Lithuania (killing 38 civilians) on 29 January 1944.

Attention should be paid to the fact that the very Y. Arad has departed to Israel. In 1979, he published a book where he personally described the slaughter of Kaniūkai Village.

When the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Lithuania stated investigating this crime, the Israeli authorities refused to cooperate and did not permit to interrogate at least one former Jewish guerilla, who took part in the slaughter of civilians in Kaniūkai Village. The investigation of the case has been terminated in such a manner.

In the above-mentioned case, the problem has been raised not for the execution of justice (transfer of the criminals to court), but for the exposition of the participants and facts of the crime.

The Lithuanian Human Rights Association does not undertake to decide on the scale, size of any crimes and the responsibilities of any persons for them. The painful period of the World War II, the post-war period, and the consequences of different occupations left many rebellious wounds and mental traumas.

Exactly this leads us to strengthen the concord among nations and mutual understanding today. The historical facts should not be permitted to manipulate with, use for the self-interested political purposes.

This leads the Association to seek the objective revelation of the real causes of the manifestation of anti-Semitism in Lithuania. The Association thinks that it is necessary to draw the attention of the European Commission also to those circumstances which do not separate, but bring the citizens of the Jewish nationality and Lithuanian nationality together.

The martyrdom of the Jewish nation is objectively revealed at the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum in Vilnius. The Presidents of the Republic of Lithuania – Algirdas Brazauskas and Valdas Adamkus – have admitted the participation of

the small part of the Lithuanians in the slaughter of the Jews and have apologized for it publicly more than once.

It should be concluded that the biased public declarations of this citizen of Israel have been frequently being directed for the contraposition and provocation of the citizens of the Lithuanian nationality and the Jewish nationality, and in no way serving for the fight against the manifestations of anti-Semitism in Lithuania.

The Lithuanian media is dominated by the opinions that frequent and public contemptuous nicknaming of the Lithuanian nation as “the nation of Jew-shooters”, by E. Zuroff, are often related to different political speculations. E.g. the above-mentioned article published in the web site of CNN appeared exactly at that time when Israel had been criticized throughout the world on killing the protesters wishing to reach the Palestinians residing in the Gaza Strip.

The Lithuanian Human Rights Association is sure that, in order to completely liquidate the manifestations of anti-Semitism in Lithuania, it is necessary to seek for the international community to critically assess the public provocations of the discord of the nations, by some persons, including E. Zuroff, as there are no deep contrapositions among the citizens of the Jewish nationality and the Lithuanian nationality. The citizens of the Jewish nationality are highly respected in Lithuania and they represent Lithuania in its lawmaking institutions and in the institutions of the European Union.

The document has been prepared by:

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## DĖL PATEIKTŲ PASTABŲ EUROPOS KOMISIJOS KOVAI SU RASIZMU IR NETOLERANCIJA TREČIAJAI ATASKAITAI APIE LIETUVĄ

### LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS PREZIDENTO KANCELIARIJOS ASMENŲ APTARNAVIMO IR DOKUMENTŲ VALDYMO SKYRIUS

#### Lietuvos žmogaus teisių asociacijai

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Informuojame, kad su Lietuvos Respublikos Prezidento kanceliarijoje gautomis Lietuvos žmogaus teisių asociacijos pastabomis Europos Komisijos kovai su rasizmu ir netolerancija trečiajai ataskaitai apie Lietuvą yra susipažinta.

Dėkojame už pateiktą informaciją.

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