



# CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN

SERVING THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY & PARTS OF THE WESTSIDE

March 20, 2026

H.E. Gediminas Varvuolis  
Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania  
Embassy of Lithuania  
2622 16th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20009

RE: Follow-Up Regarding Statements on Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis

Ambassador Varvuolis,

As a Member of Congress, I am deeply committed to maintaining strong ties between the United States and Lithuania.

In September 2019, I wrote to Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis regarding statements issued by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (LGGRTC), an agency of your government, asserting that Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis was “completely exonerated” by the United States. These claims, made on multiple occasions since February 26, 2018, have included assertions that the United States Congress and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) exonerated Mr. Brazaitis for culpability in the murder of Jews in Lithuania.<sup>1</sup> In that letter, I requested that the Government of Lithuania provide specific and credible references to any such exoneration or publicly retract the claim.

In May 2021, I wrote to Ambassador Audra Plepytė seeking clarification as to whether the Centre’s characterization of Congressional correspondence as “the opinion of a politician” reflected the official position of the Government of Lithuania. I did not receive a response to either letter, nor has any documentation been provided identifying a United States determination exonerating Mr. Brazaitis. The United States government never officially exonerated Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, and Lithuania should either provide evidence if it claims otherwise or correct prior public statements.

I am writing again to follow up on this matter and to request clarification. The INS review concerning Mr. Brazaitis was administrative in nature and discontinued following his death in

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Letter to Chairman Eilberg from Commissioner Chapman, Jr., December 1974

1974, without any judicial or evidentiary determination.<sup>2</sup> **Administrative closure does not constitute exoneration under U.S. legal standards. To date, no U.S. court, prosecutor, or administrative body has issued a determination clearing Mr. Brazaitis of responsibility for actions undertaken during his tenure in the Provisional Government of 1941.**<sup>3</sup>

More recently, in February 2026, a Vilnius City District Court convicted an activist for denial or minimization of crimes committed by the Soviet Union and imposed a criminal penalty.<sup>4</sup> This demonstrates that Lithuania applies legal standards to issues of historical interpretation. At the same time, concerns regarding the continued characterization of Mr. Brazaitis as “completely exonerated” have been raised repeatedly over a number of years, including in my prior letters, without supporting documentation.

Given this history, I respectfully request that the Government of Lithuania provide a written response indicating on what basis it maintains that the United States “completely exonerated” Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis. If relevant references cannot be provided, I request that Lithuanian state institutions correct prior public statements, as they appear to misrepresent the official position of the U.S. government. I also request clarification as to whether the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre’s December 22, 2020 statement regarding Congressional correspondence reflects the official position of the Government of Lithuania.

I hope you will take this opportunity to clarify the record and to demonstrate your government’s continued commitment to accurate historical representation.

Sincerely,



**BRAD SHERMAN**  
Member of Congress

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Gurevičius, Ainis. “Vilnius Court Convicts Pro-Russian Activist for Denying Soviet Crimes.” *LRT*, 26 Feb. 2026, <https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english/19/2851411/vilnius-court-convicts-pro-russian-activist-for-denying-soviet-crimes>.

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30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

# CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN

SERVING THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

September 25, 2019

Hon. Saulius Skvernelis  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania  
In Care of: Hon. Rolandas Kriščiūnas  
Ambassador the Republic of Lithuania  
Embassy of Lithuania  
2622 16th St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009

Re: Nazi-Era Lithuanian Leader Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis

Your Excellency,

As a Member of Congress, I am deeply committed to maintaining strong ties between the United States and Lithuania.

As a result of recent statements issued by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, an agency of your government, I am writing to ask you to either provide specific and credible references to the exoneration and rehabilitation of Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, former Minister of Education and acting Prime Minister under the Provisional Government of Lithuania in 1941, or to publicly retract the Centre's claims for the misstatement of facts and misuse of U.S. Congressional documents in your government's efforts to address the history of the Holocaust in Lithuania.

On three separate occasions dating back to February 26, 2018, the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (LGGRTC) asserted that the United States Congress and the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) "completely exonerated" Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis for culpability in the murder of Jews in Lithuania.<sup>1</sup>

The United States Department of Justice conducted an investigation into the allegation that from June 23, 1941 to July 12, 1941, during the life of the interim Provisional Government of Lithuania, Mr. Brazaitis, as Minister of Education and acting Prime Minister, "was responsible

<sup>1</sup> Letter Reference 55R-21, 14R-82; DELFI, "LGGRTC: The Genocide Research Center Will Not Stand Vulgar Pressure In Response to Mr. Vinokurui," March 8, 2019. Letter Reference 14R-53, dated February 26, 2018.

for the issuance and enforcement of repressive edicts against the Jewish minority.”<sup>2</sup> The letter sent from Commissioner Leonard Chapman, Jr. to Chairman Joshua Eilberg of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law in December 1974 states that in an attempt to elicit testimony from Mr. Brazaitis as to the activities of the Provisional Lithuanian Government, Mr. Brazaitis was unable to testify as he had sustained his fourth heart attack and was hospitalized. Mr. Brazaitis died on October 24, 1974. The letter then states that in the opinion of the review committee, “further investigation in these matters appeared unwarranted.”<sup>3</sup> As a result, the Immigration and Naturalization Service determined to remove Mr. Brazaitis’ name from the active list of Alleged Nazi War Criminals residing in the United States. The U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Congressional Committees do not usually continue investigations after a subject has died; thus, they would have concluded the investigation without findings—exactly as the letter indicates.

Notably, the review of Mr. Brazaitis by the U.S. Department of Justice was cursory and was conducted only as a result of pressure by Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman of New York, a member of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law of which Mr. Eilberg was Chairman, to investigate and deport Nazis who had been offered protection by the U.S. government.<sup>4</sup> In 1974, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was “ill-equipped” and made “half-attempts” to deport known Nazis, until a formal office was established for this purpose in the U.S. Department of Justice in 1979.<sup>5</sup> In 1974, Congresswoman Holtzman herself accused the INS of conducting a “half-hearted, dilatory investigation” of more than 60 alleged Nazi war criminals and charged specifically that the investigation was headed by “three part-time bureaucrats without the background or authority to direct an investigation of this nature,” who failed to contact the German or Israeli governments for pertinent data, the National Archives in Washington, or Soviet Jews now in Israel who may have had pertinent information.<sup>6</sup> Similar to a number of other known Nazi perpetrators who emigrated to the United States following World War II, Mr. Brazaitis gained entry to the United States as a result of his “operational value” for the Central Intelligence Agency.<sup>7</sup>

Since the United States Department of Justice conducted its investigations into Mr. Brazaitis’ responsibility for “repressive edicts against the Jewish minority,” key documents regarding the activities of the Provisional Lithuanian Government have been made public. In 2001, the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania historian Rytas Narvydas discovered and published the authentic minutes and decrees of the Provisional Government. In 1974, problematically, these documents were held by the Soviets. The volume included the “Regulations on the Situation of the Jews” with Brazaitis’ signature, which asserts that the Jews had exploited the Lithuanian nation economically for hundreds of years, had demoralized it, and

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Letter to Chairman Eilberg from Commissioner Chapman, Jr., December 1974.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Brazaitis was a “covert contact” of the Central Intelligence Agency.

<sup>5</sup> Eric Lichtblau, *The Nazis Next Door*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014.

<sup>6</sup> Joseph Polakoff, “INS Accused of Conducting Dilatory Probe of More than 60 War Criminals,” *Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletin*, May 21, 1974, [http://pdfs.jta.org/1974/1974-05-21\\_098.pdf?\\_ga=2.142121586.1937063510.1569271901-1798217195.1563368735](http://pdfs.jta.org/1974/1974-05-21_098.pdf?_ga=2.142121586.1937063510.1569271901-1798217195.1563368735).

<sup>7</sup> April 19, 1955, “Re-entry Permit for Juozas Brazaitis,”

[https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/BRAZAITIS%2C%20JUOZAS\\_0072.pdf](https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/BRAZAITIS%2C%20JUOZAS_0072.pdf).

in recent years, under the mantle of Bolshevism, had most widely developed their battle against Lithuania's independence and the Lithuanian nation. The Genocide and Resistance Research Centre also included the minutes from a meeting on July 5, 1941, in which Brazaitis and the Provisional Government approved requested funding for 824 members of the TDA Battalion and the concentration camp at Kaunas VII fort. From June 28 to July 6, the TDA Battalion murdered approximately 5,000 Jewish men, and held many Jewish women and children without food or water at Kaunas VII fort.

As the Immigration and Naturalization Service only considered the actions of the Provisional Government from June 23, 1941 to July 12, 1941, the approval of funding for the TDA Battalion and the conclusion of the "Regulations on the Situation of the Jews" were not considered as such actions fell outside of the designated time frame.

Finally, in 2005, the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania concluded their review of "the Persecution and Mass Murder of Lithuanian Jews during Summer and Fall of 1941."<sup>8</sup> The Commission determined that the Provisional Government approved segregating the Jews of Lithuania and expropriating their property, and did not publicly disassociate itself from the murder of Lithuania's Jewish citizens. To this point, the Commission recognized the TDA Battalion as a "Responsible Agency" as a result of their participation in the killings of Jews. The Provisional Government funded the TDA. The Commission also concluded that the Provisional Government's approval of the "Regulations on the Situation of the Jews" was the most comprehensive expression of the Government's official anti-Semitism. Thus, there is no question as to Mr. Brazaitis' involvement in cementing Lithuania's anti-Semitic history and the considerable violence that took place before the arrival of the Germans.

I hope you will take concrete steps to demonstrate your government's commitment to accurate historical portrayal and recognize the darkest realities of the Holocaust.

Sincerely,



BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress

CC: Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism  
Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues

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<sup>8</sup> International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, "The Persecution and Mass Murder of Lithuanian Jews during Summer and Fall of 1941: Sources and Analysis," CONCLUSIONS, April 20, 2005.



BRAD SHERMAN  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

PH: (202) 225-5911  
FAX: (202) 225-5879

May 25, 2021

H.E. Audra Plepytė  
Ambassador of Lithuania to the United States  
2622 16th Street, NW  
Washington DC, 20009

RE: Response Letter from Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania

Ambassador Plepytė,

In September 2019, I wrote to Prime Minister Skvernelis regarding statements issued by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, an agency of your government. I requested that the Government of Lithuania either provide specific and credible references to the exoneration and rehabilitation of Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, former Minister of Education and acting Prime Minister under the Provisional Government of Lithuania in 1941, or to publicly retract the Centre's claims for the misstatement of facts and misuse of U.S. Congressional documents in your government's efforts to address the history of the Holocaust in Lithuania. I did not receive a response to this letter.

Rather, in a letter to my constituent, Grant Gochin, dated December 22, 2020 (reference Nr. 14R-I 2020-11-26), the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania stated that the letter I sent to Prime Minister Skvernelis is, "to be seen [in this context] as the opinion of a politician, but not as a new historical source or a new circumstance of historical events."

As I did not receive an official response from your government, I am writing to confirm whether I should regard the letter provided to Mr. Gochin as the Government of Lithuania's official response to my earlier letter.

I hope you will take concrete steps to demonstrate your government's commitment to accurate historical portrayal and recognize the darkest realities of the Holocaust.

Sincerely,

BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress



Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2012

His Excellency Andrius Kubilius  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania  
Gedimino Ave. 11  
Lt – 01103 Vilnius  
Lithuania

Dear Prime Minister Kubilius,

As Members of Congress, we are deeply committed to maintaining strong ties between the United States and Lithuania.

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the reburial of Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, who served as the acting Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Lithuania from June to August 1941. Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis died in the United States in 1974 and was reburied with honors in Lithuania in May 2012 with a commemoration of his life and legacy.

We wish to share the pain and anger that this decision has caused Holocaust survivors and the wider Jewish community. Holocaust historian Dr. Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Center described the decision to rebury Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis as “an absolute outrage.”

Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis was the leader of the Provisional Government of Lithuania which was formed by the Lithuanian Activist Front (LAF). The LAF collaborated with the forces of Nazi Germany. An LAF essay stated, “The Lithuanian Activist Front, by restoring the new Lithuania, is determined to carry out an immediate and fundamental purging of the Lithuanian nation and its land of Jews, parasites and monsters....” The incitement to murder was vicious and unrelenting; Lithuanian Jews were murdered at an astonishingly rapid rate.

We believe that the reburial of Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis undermines efforts to counter anti-Semitism and to recognize the crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators.

We hope you will take concrete steps to demonstrate your government’s commitment to accurate historical portrayal and recognize the darkest realities of the Holocaust.

Thank you.

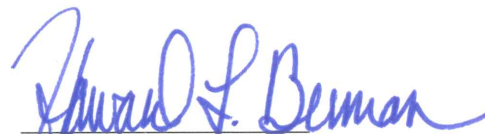
Sincerely,



BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress



HENRY WAXMAN  
Member of Congress



HOWARD BERMAN  
Member of Congress