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USA

[To:] Center for the Study of the Genocide and Resistance of Residents of Lithuania
Didžioji street no. 17/1, Vilnius, Lithuania

I am contacting you regarding the Genocide and Resistance Center's publications which claim the activities of Juozas Brazaitis-Ambrazevičius who led the Lithuanian Provisional Government of 1941 (taking over power from Kazys Škirpa) "were investigated fully by the US Congress and US Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1974, and Juozas Brazaitis-Ambrazevičius was completely exonerated."

This statement was published at the following publicly available sources:

Your agency's website, where you published a public rebuttal to my letter about changing your historical finding (July 18, 2018, <http://genocid.lt/centras/lt/2969/a/>)

The article on Delfi.lt called "Genocido tyrimo centras nepasiduos vulgariam spaudimui" [The Genocide Research Center Won't Give In to Vulgar Pressure], (March 8, 2019, <https://www.delfi.lt/news/ringas/politics/lggrtc-genocido-tyrimo-centras-nepasiduos-vulgariam-spaudimui.d?id=80566671>)

as well as via private sites and means in supplying answers in writing to the Office of Parliamentary Ombudsman.

These statements concerning the vindication and rehabilitation of Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis by United States political and justice institutions are not true.

According to the information and documents we possess, the activities of this person was investigated by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service, but the investigation was dropped following his death in 1974. No decision regarding criminally charging or exonerating this person was adopted and the investigation was halted because of this person's death.

According to historians, no official investigation at the US Congress of Immigration Service was conducted. ¹ Since no investigation was conducted, no exonerating decision was made. This is confirmed in US House of Representatives representative and Judiciary Committee member Joshua Eilberg in his letter of January 13, 1975, addressed to vice-president of the Lithuanian-American Community Stanley A. Gecys. The Congress member's letter said:

"Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Immigration and Naturalization Service which states that Juozas Brazaitis and Jonas Slepetyš have been removed from the active list of Alleged Nazi War Criminals residing in the United States and that the investigations relating to them have been stopped. These actions are based upon the INS's determination that there is no evidence of anti-Jewish or pro-Nazi activities on their part."

I consulted with US attorneys who provided a legal explanation of the investigation and dropping of this case. The Juozas Brazaitis case was not heard in the US Congress and there is no exoneration in the USA. The case was investigated by the Immigration Service which halted the

¹ <https://www.usmmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007105>

case because of a lack of information following this person's death, since there were laws in the United States then allowing for the laying of charges after a person's death. As a result of these legal findings, I contacted the US Congress.

There is an enormous difference between exoneration and dropping a case because of the suspect's death and a lack of evidence, but the Genocide Center doesn't make that differentiation and is publishing tendentious disinformation for the public.

The fact Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis was not wholly exonerated and rehabilitated by US institutions is confirmed in the August 25, 2019, letter by US Congress member Brad Sherman addressed to the prime minister of Lithuania and the Lithuanian ambassador to the United States. In the letter the Congress member condemned this explanation of history presented by the Genocide Center and described in detail the real situation. He said the Congress was not able to interrogate J. A. Brazaitis because he was placed in a hospital following a fourth heart attack, and died on October 24, 1974. The member of Congress said the investigation was halted because of the man's death and also because documents in the Soviet jurisdiction which testify to Brazaitis's complicity in the Holocaust (Regulations on the Status of Jews, the order for forming the TDA battalion, orders for financing the TDA and so on) were not accessible in 1974. The member of Congress officially confirmed the statement I made in my earlier communications that Brazaitis was not wholly exonerated by the US Congress.

The above-indicated publicly-accessible publications by the Genocide Center present false information on a comprehensive investigation of Brazaitis's activities and his exoneration. This information is a mendacious interpretation of the facts not supported by documents and misinforming the public, and is forbidden under article 19, part 2 of the Lithuanian Law on the Provision of Information to the Public.

Taking the facts explained above into consideration, I demand this false information be removed from public access stating "Brazaitis's activities were comprehensively investigated by the US Congress and the US Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1974, and Brazaitis was completely exonerated."

Appended:

1. US Congress member and Judiciary Committee member Joshua Eilberg's letter of January 13, 1975.
2. US Congress member Brad Sherman's letter to the Lithuanian prime minister of September 25, 2019.
3. Letter from members of Congress to Lithuanian prime minister of September 25, 2012.

Respectfully,

[signed]

Grant Arthur Gochin
November 26, 2020