ISRAELI-AMERICAN
CIVIC ACTION NETWORK

Secretary of State Anthony Blinken
US State Department
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Ambassador Cherrie Daniels
Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues
Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Ambassador Robert Gilchrist
US Ambassador to Lithuania
U.S. Embassy Vilnius
Akmenų g. 6
Vilnius, Lithuania

April 22, 2021

Re: Lithuania

Secretary Blinken, Ambassador Daniels, Ambassador Gilchrist:

The State Department Report: Lithuania 2019 International Religious Freedom Report on Lithuania has only recently come to my attention. I bring a number of items to your attention and hope they will be considered for inclusion in the 2021 report and for corrections to this report.

The American citizen plaintiff in the Noreika case is Grant Gochin, resident of Los Angeles. He was supported in his lawsuit by Noreika's own granddaughter, Silvia Foti.

Mr. Gochin has submitted legal actions through many different government departments, five Lithuanian Courts and Lithuanian criminal authorities. All have been rebuffed. No entity in Lithuania has examined the Holocaust revisionism by the Lithuanian Genocide Center, nor have criminal authorities been willing to investigate the clear Holocaust revisionism from the Genocide Center. This obvious collusion between government, criminal authorities and Courts brings into question the independence of Lithuanian Courts and the sincerity of criminal authorities. Mr. Gochin has appealed his case to ECHR.

The replacement plaque hung by Pro Patria on the Wroblewski Library is especially egregious in that Mr. Gochin brought three actions against the Lithuanian Heritage Department for the original plaque not meeting national heritage requirements. The Heritage Department defended all three cases vigorously, but have allowed fascists to hang their own sign on a national heritage building without objection. This is clearly pro fascist ideology.

The report details extensive commemoration of the victims. In each of those events, and in every public event by Lithuanian officials, their focus is on acts by Nazi's and Soviets. Lithuanian narrative at commemoration events avoids mention of participation of Lithuanians. It is designed as propaganda to show remorse, while shifting blame and denying culpability. As such, their commemoration events are in fact Holocaust denial propaganda events.

These statements are repeated in their diplomatic meetings and in addresses to the general public. This is Holocaust denial.

The report refers to the Journalistic Ethics Inspectorate. We wish to draw your attention to two complaints filed by Mr. Gochin in which he complained about false information printed in the public domain about their national Holocaust revision efforts. The first was completely ignored, the second was rebuffed, along the same lines as his other filings. I.E. USA should not be affording the ideologically named Journalistic Ethics Inspectorate as legitimate.

The report mentions restitution of stolen private property. The report is inadequate and ignores the intent and effect of their legislation. You state correctly that restitution was based on citizenship. Unfortunately not included is that Lithuania only allowed single citizenship, so an American would have had to renounce their US citizenship in order to claim such restitution.

Renunciation of US Citizenship was required prior to application for reinstatement of Lithuanian citizenship, and as was widely reported, the Lithuanian Migration Department had a program to reject Jewish citizenship restoration applications. Therefore, the law provided for restitution, but in fact, it was almost impossible to claim it. The mechanism was designed to be able to publicly claim a program existed, but not to allow its operation.

There was no restitution of heirless private property. As 96.4% of Jews were murdered, it can be assumed that 96.4% of property was heirless. The 3.6% residual property restitution is described in the paragraph above. I.E. Lithuania has successfully retained stolen Jewish property.

The report addresses the Criminal Code prohibition of incitement to hatred, and it also describes the fascist marches elevating Holocaust perpetrators into national heroes. This is obvious incitement to hatred and therefore, it is self-evident that the criminal prohibition against incitement to hatred is not applied. The Noreika monument is a hate symbol; it hangs with full government consent on a government building that is listed as a nationally protected heritage building. The report should therefore state clearly that the criminal code prohibition is for propaganda purposes only, not for implementation.

Multiple symbols / monuments / plaques etc exist in Lithuania for Holocaust perpetrators, therefore, Lithuania's codified prohibition of Nazi symbols is intended as a distraction only. It is not legislation to be applied.

The report refers to "Government Practices" and addresses the Noreika case. The Lithuanian Genocide Center has been exposed as a propaganda center to rewrite history. It is merely political propaganda designed to fight Lithuania's "Memory Wars". Their own historian employees have identified it as an Orwellian Center of fraud. We request that the State Department Report: Lithuania 2019 International

Religious Freedom Report on Lithuania be retracted, corrected and reissued to reflect the pervasive historical revisionism that has been so publicly revealed.

Page 10 of the 2019 report states that The Government of Lithuania said it was open to restitution discussions about stolen Jewish property. Clearly, it is not and never has been. Their signature on the Terezin Declaration was never intended to be sincere, as their pledges to stop rehabilitating Holocaust Perpetrators on the IHRA agreements.

The report refers to the 2020 Year of the Vilna Gaon. These are tools used by the Lithuanian government to distract from their glorification of Holocaust perpetrators and are not sincere or credible acts. Having our government afford Lithuania credibility on such activities enables continued Holocaust revisionism.

We draw your attention to communication by Congressman Sherman with the Prime Minister of Lithuania. Mr. Gochin has them posted on his website here:
https://www.grantgochin.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Brazitis-Nov-2020-merged.pdf

USA is an ally and a defender of Lithuania. For their government to misuse US Congressional documents for purposes of Holocaust denial is indeed egregious. To then dismiss Congressman Sherman as "just a politician" when he brings it to the attention of the Prime Minister is insulting.

We formally request:

1. The US State Department issue corrections to the report and to ensure that our country is not used as a tool of Holocaust revisionism by the Government of Lithuania.
2. Our US Ambassador to Lithuania should withdraw participation in Holocaust Remembrance events produced by the Lithuanian government unless there is specific reference to Lithuanian Holocaust perpetrators in a factual and complete context.
3. The State Department might consider a formal protest of the misuse of US Congressional documents for purpose of Holocaust revision and demand an apology for the insults directed at our Members of Congress.
4. The US State Department to issue a formal statement on the lines of Special Envoy Daniel's Tweets mentioned in the report.
5. All cooperation between the Lithuanian Genocide Center and any US Government entity be cancelled.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dillon L. Hosier
Chairman and CEO
Israeli-American Civic Action Network