# איגוד יוצאי ליטא בישראל
# Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel

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גליקמן אלי, עו''ד

נשיאת כבוד:
רחל לוין

9 July 2020

Honorable Lithuanian Ambassador to Israel
Mrs. Lina Antanavičienė
12 Aba Hillel Silver Street, 17th Floor
Ramat Gan 5250606

Dear Ambassador Antanviciene,

Re: Resurgence of anti-Semitism in Lithuania

Lithuanian press releases over the past two weeks have seen anti-Semitic outbreaks that we are seeing in recent times, and this alarms Lithuanian Jewry living in Israel.

Sadly there are many examples of this:

-Pouring paint on statues in Vilnius of the Gaon of Vilna and also on that of Dr. Zemach Shabad – the doctor who was the source of the book *Doctor Ayboylit*, the legendary physician of animals.

-Neo Nazi demonstration in Kaunas where they threatened the life of Jacob Frankel, the publisher of Musu Zydai, shouting, "You are a Jew, flee Lithuania, you are a communist, Lithuania for Lithuanians."

-The Seimas has decided to name the year 2021 honoring Lithuanian hero's who fought for Lithuania's independence, and amongst them a declaring the Lithuanian partisan Juozas Luksa Daumantas who is known to have participated in the destruction of Lithuanian Jewry during World War II.

-Another example is philosopher Gintautas Mazeikis's article in LRT mention of corona's epidemic victims with Holocaust victims.

Without the government's immediate action in taking the steps necessary to stop this new wave of anti-Semitism may quickly deteriorate to physical harm of Jews living in Lithuania and also Jewish tourism to Lithuania.

We do recognize that many Lithuanians do not support Neo Nazism and are helping to fight anti-Semitism.

Please convey our concerns on the above issue to appropriate bodies in the Lithuanian government.

Thank you and Stay healthy,

Respectfully,

Arie Ben-Ari, Chair
Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel

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