



## **CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE GENOCIDE AND RESISTANCE OF RESIDENTS OF LITHUANIA**

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No. 14R-

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### **ON THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION**

In response to your letter, we inform you your statement that the Center for the Study of the Genocide and Resistance of Residents of Lithuania (hereinafter Center) allegedly "judges collaborators with the Soviet and Nazi occupation regimes differently" is not true. The Center judges all collaborators according to a uniform definition of collaboration: a traitor to the country who works with the institutions of the state occupying the country doing harm to his country's statehood and the interests of the citizens (the State Lithuanian Language Commission). This is obvious from the Center's publications on the topics of the Soviet genocide or the Holocaust published over many years, for example, "Vokiečių saugumo policijos ir SD Vilniaus ypatingasis būrys 1941-1944 m. [The Vilnius Special Squadron of the German Security Police and SD from 1941 to 1944]," "Holokaustas Lietuvoje 1941-1944 m. [The Holocaust in Lithuania 1941-1944]," "Lietuvių policijos batalionai 1941-1945 m. [Lithuanian Police Battalions from 1941 to 1945]" and others.

The Center does not agree with your comparison that "Both Petras Cvirka and Jonas Noreika worked intentionally against Lithuanian residents, both people were active publishers of propaganda, both led delegations which supported Lithuania becoming a constituent part of the occupational regimes and both people made violent decisions which caused the death of Lithuanian residents."

The Center has provided facts and comprehensive arguments proving Petras Cvirka in his political and social activity intentionally, significantly and of his own volition collaborated with the occupational structures of the Soviet government, and that his collaboration resulted in large-scale and harmful consequences for the survival of the Lithuanian state and her citizens (the comprehensive finding by the Center can be found here:

[http://genocid.lt/UserFiles/File/Titulinis/2019/20191211\\_cvirka\\_ekspertine\\_isvada.pdf](http://genocid.lt/UserFiles/File/Titulinis/2019/20191211_cvirka_ekspertine_isvada.pdf)).

The Center has also provided facts and arguments why Jonas Noreika's activity shouldn't be considered collaboration, which can be found here:

[http://genocid.lt/UserFiles/File/Titulinis/2019/20190327\\_noreika.pdf](http://genocid.lt/UserFiles/File/Titulinis/2019/20190327_noreika.pdf) and here:

[http://genocid.lt/UserFiles/File/Titulinis/2019/20191218\\_pazyma.pdf](http://genocid.lt/UserFiles/File/Titulinis/2019/20191218_pazyma.pdf)

To briefly summarize, the essential differences between the activity of Petras Cvirka and Jonas Noreika are these:

Petras Cvirka intentionally and fundamentally contributed to the occupation and annexation of Lithuania in 1940 and clearly received personal benefit from this, while Jonas Noreika went in the opposite direction, resolutely seeking Lithuanian independence; during the Nazi and Soviet occupations he chose administrative work as a cover for his anti-Nazi and anti-Soviet resistance, and for this activity he was arrested and imprisoned by both regimes (during the Nazi period at the Stutthof concentration camp, during the Soviet at the KGB prison), and in the end was murdered by the Soviet government.

The Center in its explanations published on March 27, 2019, explains fully that Noreika's directives for the Žagarė ghetto are not orders which appeared by his will. The Center provides additional basis for its arguments in the December 12, 2019, finding by the Center called "Apie Jono Noreikos (Generolo Vėtros) veiklą antinaciniame pogrindyje" [On the Activity of Jonas Noreika (General Storm) in the Anti-Nazi Underground]. It should be noted Šiauliai district Nazi commissar H. Gewecke and his deputy E. Bubas, whose orders Jonas Noreika passed on, were released by the Allies after interrogation in 1945, and that the Lübeck court threw out accusations against them regarding the Holocaust in 1970 (Gewecke was convicted only of the murder of one prisoner of the Šiauliai ghetto).

In its letter no. 14R-52 of July 18, 2018, the Center comprehensively explained to you that the publication of the Žemaičių žemė newspaper was controlled by the occupational German government and that the names of authors do not appear with its articles, and that therefore it is impossible to make attribution of these articles.

In its finding of December 17, 2019, the Center wrote that the delegation which left Telšiai for Kaunas in which Jonas Noreika participated brought written supported signed by Žemaitijans for Lithuanian independence proclaimed by the Lithuanian Provisional Government by not

recognized by the Germans, and also support to the Lithuanian Provisional Government unrecognized by the Germans. In light of that, in the Center's opinion, equating this delegation with the 1940 delegation to Moscow whose aim was the opposite--to legitimize the occupation and the occupational government of Lithuania, is considered a *reductio ad absurdam*.

Teresė Birutė Burauskaitė, general director

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