



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS GENERALINIS KONSULATAS LOS ANDŽELE  
CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN LOS ANGELES**

Dillon Hosier,  
CEO,  
Israeli-American Civic Action Network

April 13, 2026, No. (86.15)526-67

**REGARDING THE MR. FRIDMAN'S CASE**

Dear Mr. Hosier,

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 2026, and for raising these questions. We appreciate the opportunity to provide clarifications regarding the legal proceedings you referenced, as well as to reiterate Lithuania's firm commitment to democratic principles, the rule of law, and responsible historical discourse.

Lithuania is a democratic state governed by the rule of law, where the independence of the judiciary, due process, and protection of fundamental rights are fully ensured. Matters currently before the courts are handled strictly in accordance with national law and international legal standards.

Please find below responses to your questions to the extent permitted within an ongoing judicial process.

Mr. Artur Fridman has been charged under Article 170-2(1) of the Criminal Code (public approval, denial, or gross trivialization of crimes committed by the USSR against Lithuania) and Article 313(2) (desecration of the memory of the deceased). The applicable statutory provisions provide for penalties including fines, restriction of liberty, arrest or imprisonment, depending on the court's assessment of the circumstances and severity of the offense. The case is currently under examination before the Vilnius City District Court.

In accordance with Lithuanian law and EU legal standards, all defendants are guaranteed the right to legal counsel. Where necessary, state-funded legal aid is provided, ensuring qualified representation at all stages of proceedings. Access to counsel and the quality of defense are subject to strict legal safeguards.

The defendant's right to access the case file and evidence is ensured in line with procedural law and the principles of a fair trial. The court independently evaluates all evidence presented in the case. Any expert input, where applicable, is considered in accordance with procedural rules governing admissibility and relevance.

Lithuania fully upholds freedom of expression, including open and critical discussion of historical figures and events. At the same time, Lithuanian law – consistent with broader European legal practice – draws a clear distinction between legitimate historical discourse and statements that amount to the denial or justification of totalitarian crimes, including those committed by Nazi and Soviet regimes.

With regard to the article, *The Indictment That Put Lithuania on Trial*, referenced in your letter, it is important to note that it reflects the views of Mr. Grant Gochin, who is taking an active interest in the issues related to Lithuanian historical memory. His publications have been characterized by a consistently adversarial position toward Lithuanian state institutions, a selective use of historical material, and a tendency to present complex historical and legal matters in a one-sided manner. The article in question continues this pattern, offering interpretations that are not grounded in the full evidentiary record of the case and omitting relevant legal context.

As the matter is currently under judicial consideration, it would not be appropriate for the government to comment on specific media narratives. The Lithuanian legal system ensures that facts are established through an impartial judicial process.

Lithuania maintains a consistent and transparent approach to historical memory, grounded in scholarly research, democratic debate and respect for all victims of totalitarian regimes. The state continues to engage in open dialogue on complex historical issues, reflecting both national and international perspectives.

We would like to emphasize that Lithuania has made substantial efforts over the past decades to confront the legacy of both Nazi and Soviet occupations. This includes active Holocaust remembrance initiatives, educational programs, and cooperation with international partners. Our institutions remain committed to historical integrity, inclusiveness and respectful engagement with all communities.

Sincerely,

Consul general



Sandra Brikaitė