



CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN

SERVING THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY & PARTS OF THE WESTSIDE

March 20, 2026

H.E. Gediminas Varvuolis
Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania
Embassy of Lithuania
2622 16th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009

RE: Follow-Up Regarding Statements on Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis

Ambassador Varvuolis,

As a Member of Congress, I am deeply committed to maintaining strong ties between the United States and Lithuania.

In September 2019, I wrote to Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis regarding statements issued by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (LGGRTC), an agency of your government, asserting that Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis was “completely exonerated” by the United States. These claims, made on multiple occasions since February 26, 2018, have included assertions that the United States Congress and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) exonerated Mr. Brazaitis for culpability in the murder of Jews in Lithuania.¹ In that letter, I requested that the Government of Lithuania provide specific and credible references to any such exoneration or publicly retract the claim.

In May 2021, I wrote to Ambassador Audra Plepytė seeking clarification as to whether the Centre’s characterization of Congressional correspondence as “the opinion of a politician” reflected the official position of the Government of Lithuania. I did not receive a response to either letter, nor has any documentation been provided identifying a United States determination exonerating Mr. Brazaitis. The United States government never officially exonerated Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, and Lithuania should either provide evidence if it claims otherwise or correct prior public statements.

I am writing again to follow up on this matter and to request clarification. The INS review concerning Mr. Brazaitis was administrative in nature and discontinued following his death in

¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Letter to Chairman Eilberg from Commissioner Chapman, Jr., December 1974

1974, without any judicial or evidentiary determination.² **Administrative closure does not constitute exoneration under U.S. legal standards. To date, no U.S. court, prosecutor, or administrative body has issued a determination clearing Mr. Brazaitis of responsibility for actions undertaken during his tenure in the Provisional Government of 1941.**³

More recently, in February 2026, a Vilnius City District Court convicted an activist for denial or minimization of crimes committed by the Soviet Union and imposed a criminal penalty.⁴ This demonstrates that Lithuania applies legal standards to issues of historical interpretation. At the same time, concerns regarding the continued characterization of Mr. Brazaitis as “completely exonerated” have been raised repeatedly over a number of years, including in my prior letters, without supporting documentation.

Given this history, I respectfully request that the Government of Lithuania provide a written response indicating on what basis it maintains that the United States “completely exonerated” Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis. If relevant references cannot be provided, I request that Lithuanian state institutions correct prior public statements, as they appear to misrepresent the official position of the U.S. government. I also request clarification as to whether the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre’s December 22, 2020 statement regarding Congressional correspondence reflects the official position of the Government of Lithuania.

I hope you will take this opportunity to clarify the record and to demonstrate your government’s continued commitment to accurate historical representation.

Sincerely,



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress

² Ibid.

³ Ibid

⁴ Gurevičius, Ainis. “Vilnius Court Convicts Pro-Russian Activist for Denying Soviet Crimes.” *LRT*, 26 Feb. 2026, <https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english/19/2851411/vilnius-court-convicts-pro-russian-activist-for-denying-soviet-crimes>.