

LITHUANIAN PRESIDENTIAL HONORS APPLICATIONS — COMBINED RECORD

Filed 22 October 2026 | Nine case-specific submissions

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Reference compilation of the signed PDFs submitted to the Lithuanian Presidency.

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G. Gochin

Los Angeles, 22 October 2026
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GRANT ARTHUR GOCHIN

10900 Winnetka Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311, USA

+1 818-625-6513 | ggochin@gmail.com

Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania

22 October 2026

His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda

President of the Republic of Lithuania

Office of the President, S. Daukanto a. 3, LT-01122 Vilnius

Through the Chancellor of the Lithuanian State Orders and the State Awards Council

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION: KAZYS ŠKIRPA

Review and withdrawal of state awards; independent historical evaluation; production of the complete award record

Re: Supplement to my application of 27 September 2026, signed with a qualified electronic signature, requesting review of the state awards of Kazys Škirpa (1895–1979) under the Law on State Awards. The application was transmitted to the Presidential Chancellery (kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt) on 27 September 2026 at 10:35 PDT, with annexes at 12:27–12:28 PDT, and as a single consolidated QES-signed PDF at 22:17 PDT. I have not received a registration number or reply. Please register this supplement under the original file, or independently if that number cannot be located, and inform me of both.

I. Why this supplement is filed today

1. Two developments, neither addressed in my application of 27 September, prompt this supplement. The first is the letter the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (LGGRTC) sent me today. The second is the Government's action plan of 157 measures against antisemitism, xenophobia and incitement to hatred. Together they place the Škirpa awards in a new light: the Centre has now stated in writing that the program announced in the name of Škirpa's organization has no legal force and is not the Republic's position, and the Government has recognized, as a legislative task for early 2027, that the existing mechanisms for withdrawing state awards are not effective enough.

A. LGGRTC letter No. 11R-12 of 22 October 2026

2. On 22 October 2026 I received LGGRTC letter No. 11R-12, registered 22 October 2026 and entitled “DĖL INFORMACIJOS APIE LIETUVIŲ AKTYVISTŲ FRONTO DOKUMENTUOSE IŠDĖSTYTUS TEIGINIUS.” It was signed electronically by Acting Director General Arūnas Bubnys at 13:45 (its metadata also records the signature of chief specialist Jolita Bernotienė at 16:27) and copied to the Government Chancellery. It answers my request of 18 September 2026, which the Government Chancellery forwarded to the Centre by letter No. PSG-1730 of 21 September 2026. The letter has no annexes. (Exhibit C1.)

3. The Centre states:

“LAF buvo nevalstybinė politinė ir rezistencinė organizacija. Jūsų nurodyti LAF dokumentai ir juose išdėstyti teiginiai nėra Lietuvos Respublikos teisės aktai ir neturi teisinės galios Lietuvos Respublikos teisinėje sistemoje. Juose paskelbti teiginiai apie žydų teisių „atšaukimą“ negali būti laikomi teisiškai galiojančiu šių teisių panaikinimu ar oficialia Lietuvos Respublikos pozicija.”

4. The Centre invokes the statement of the Supreme Council–Reconstituent Seimas of 8 May 1990, “Dėl žydų tautos genocido Lietuvoje hitlerinės okupacijos metais,” and Article 29 of the Constitution. It concludes:

“Atskiro dokumento, kuriuo būtų tiesiogiai atmesti konkretūs LAF teiginiai, nenustatymas savaime nereikštų šių teiginių pripažinimo Lietuvos valstybės pozicija ar jų teisinės galios.”

5. Working translation: the failure to identify a separate document directly rejecting specific LAF statements would not in itself mean that those statements are recognized as the position of the Lithuanian state or as having legal force. The letter speaks in the present tense, about today's legal system. It says nothing about the legal or practical effect of the LAF documents in 1941, and I do not read it as doing so. It does not say that the Centre searched for a repudiating act; it identifies none. It does not say what the leaders of the Lithuanian Activist Front (LAF) did to Jews, and it supplies no historical analysis. I accept its limited legal proposition for the purposes of this application.

6. The letter matters to this application because it fixes, in the Centre's own words and over the signature of its acting head, that the program revoking Jewish rights — the program issued in the name of the organization Škirpa founded and led in Berlin — carries no state authority and is not the Republic's position. The letter does not mention Škirpa; the connection to the organization he led is mine. If, as the official sources indicate, Škirpa remains listed as a holder of state awards, the question I put to the President follows directly: once the program is disowned, on what evidence and under what standard does the Republic continue to honor its leader?

B. The Government's 157-measure action plan

7. By Government Resolution No. 33 of 21 January 2026, the Twentieth Government, led by Prime Minister Inga Ruginienė, approved the Kovos su antisemitizmu, ksenofobija ar bet kokios kitos formos nesantaikos kurstymu ir žydų gyvenimo puoselėjimo veiksmų planas, a plan of 157 measures, published as a nineteen-page framework and a thirty-one-page implementation appendix. The Twenty-First Government, sworn in on 14 July 2026 under Prime Minister Mindaugas Sinkevičius, inherited it. Implementers report in writing by 31 March each year to a government-appointed coordinator, who publishes annual information on results. Its three objectives are the prevention of and fight against antisemitism, xenophobia and other incitement to hatred; the nurturing of Jewish life; and, as objective 3, “Holokausto atminties puoselėjimas.”

The plan's first objective expressly addresses Holocaust denial and minimization (“Holokausto neigimu ir menkinimu”). (Exhibits C2–C4.)

8. Measure 3.4 of the plan reads:

“3.4. Pakeisti teisės aktus, siekiant sukurti veiksmingus viešųjų objektų, kuriais propaguojami totalitariniai, autoritariniai režimai ir jų ideologijos, šalinimo mechanizmus, palengvinti laisvės kovų dalyvio teisinio statuso panaikinimą ar valstybės apdovanojimų atėmimą, kai atsiranda patvirtintų faktų dėl atitinkamų asmenų, turinčių minėtą teisinį statusą, kolaboravimo su okupacinių režimų represinėmis struktūromis ar jų dalyvavimo civilių gyventojų žudynėse ...”

9. The principal implementers of measure 3.4 are the coordinating institution, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Culture; LGGRTC is a participating institution; the indicator is “Parengti įstatymų projektai”; the deadline is the first quarter of 2027. By adopting measure 3.4, the Government has accepted three propositions that bear on this application: that the withdrawal of state awards is a legitimate instrument of Holocaust-memory policy; that the existing mechanisms need to be made more effective; and that withdrawal should follow from established facts about collaboration.

10. Three further measures place LGGRTC at the center of the plan's Holocaust-memory work. Under measure 3.1 the Centre, with municipalities, is the principal implementer of decisions removing public objects that promote totalitarian or authoritarian regimes, expressly including “nacistinį režimą, vykdžiusį Holokaustą” (2026–2029). Under measure 3.2 it leads the commemoration of rescuers. Under measure 3.27 it is the principal implementer for analyzing the Holocaust exhibitions of municipal museums and assessing whether they need updating (2027–2029). In the official consultation table the Centre itself proposed that the Vilna Gaon Museum of Jewish History lead measure 3.27, with the Centre participating. The Government partly accepted the proposal but kept the Centre as lead, answering: “Manytina, kad būtų Lietuvos gyventojų genocido ir rezistencijos tyrimo centras turi šioje srityje daugiau kompetencijos.” (Exhibit C3.)

11. Measure 3.12 directs the coordinating institution, with the institutions that appoint members of the IHRA delegation participating, to set Lithuania's long-term objectives in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and the principles, rights and duties of its delegation, by the second quarter of 2027. The measure does not name the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as its lead. It concerns how Lithuania presents its Holocaust record abroad; it does not provide for any independent assessment of the record being presented. Measure 1.48 provides for state awards to Lithuanian and foreign citizens who have contributed significantly to combating antisemitism, xenophobia and hatred in Lithuania, to Righteous Among the Nations, and to participants in resistance to the Nazi occupation. The plan therefore treats state awards as an expression of the values it promotes.

12. The Centre's most recent Škirpa assessment, Report No. 9R-598 (2024), was itself prepared for the interinstitutional commission that decides on public objects under the law prohibiting the propagation of totalitarian and authoritarian regimes — the process that measure 3.1 now assigns to the Centre (Part VI below). The institution whose Škirpa assessments I challenge is thus a participating institution in the very measure that would facilitate withdrawal of awards, and the lead institution in the measures that judge public Holocaust memory. The Škirpa awards are a test of whether the plan's commitments apply to the Republic's own honors.

C. Further LGGRTC statements since 27 September

13. Since my application, the Centre has made three further written statements that bear on the reliability of its historical characterizations:

- Letter No. 55R-951, dated 29 September and registered 2 October 2026, signed by Acting Director General Bubnys and addressed also to Darius Jakavičius, chair of the Seimas Commission for Freedom Fights and State Historical Memory: “Centras nėra ištyręs 1970 metų Liubeko teismo nuosprendžio, nes jis nėra įskaitmenintas, todėl tikėtina, kad teiginys ‘E. Bub'as buvo visiškai išteisintas’ nėra teisiškai korektiškas...” The Centre nonetheless maintained that its “essential” statement — that the court rejected the Holocaust charges against Gewecke and Bub — was accurate. (Exhibit F1.)
- Letter No. 55R-1093 of 19 October 2026, in which the Centre stated that its records do not establish why its 11 February 2020 letter used the word “išteisino” (acquitted) for Hermann Schleef, and that it found no preparatory records and no correspondence with German courts or prosecutors on the matter. (Exhibit F3.)
- Letter No. 55R-1016 of 13 October 2026, refusing to correct its 2018 letters 55R-21 and 14R-82 describing the American disposition concerning Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis. (Exhibit F5.)

II. The awards, the competent authorities and the legal question

14. My application of 27 September identified three awards. The Centre's own Report 9R-598 records them precisely: on 25 October 1919 Škirpa was awarded the Cross of Vytis, fifth degree, “už narsumą” (for bravery); on 7 February 1930 he was presented with the Volunteer Medal; and on 8 September 1935 the President of the Republic conferred on him the Order of Vytautas the Great, third degree, “už nuopelnus Lietuvai.” Where my application described the first two differently, these particulars control, subject to the Chancellor's certification. I ask the Chancellor of the Lithuanian State Orders to confirm each award, its conferral act, its current legal classification and its entry in the award lists that the Chancellor maintains, and to supply the decrees, recommendations and award files.

15. Under Article 42 of the Law on State Awards, the Founder-Volunteers Medal is conferred by the Minister of National Defence. If the President is not competent to decide its status, I ask the Office to forward that part of this request to the competent minister and to inform me.

16. I do not assume that a reburial, a street name, a military ceremony and a presidential decoration are the same legal act. I do not allege that the restored Republic conferred these decorations after 1990. The Republic's post-1990 acts concerning Škirpa were of a different kind. On 16 June 1995 Škirpa and his wife were reburied at Petrašiūnai Cemetery in Kaunas in a ceremony organized under a Government order; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has confirmed that Defence Minister Linas Linkevičius chaired the reburial commission and delivered the cemetery address, and contemporary reporting records Prime Minister Adolfas Šleževičius speaking on behalf of the Government. On 4 February 1998 Vilnius named Kazio Škirpos Alley; on 24 July 2019 the City Council renamed it Trispalvės Alley and repealed the 1998 naming. (Exhibits F7–F9.) These acts are not decorations, and I do not ask the President to review them. They show that the Republic has repeatedly had to decide what in Škirpa's record it honors.

17. All three awards were conferred before the conduct at issue — in 1919, 1930 and 1935. The conduct occurred afterward, in 1939–1941. Article 18(1) of the Law on State Awards, in the consolidated edition in force from 27 October 2020, applies to the conduct of an awardee that disgraces the award, including conduct after conferral. It provides:

“Jeigu apdovanotųjų veika žemina apdovanojo vardą, Respublikos Prezidentas gali išbraukti šiuos asmenis iš ordinų kavalierių ar medaliais, kitais pasižymėjimo ženklais apdovanotųjų sąrašo.”

18. Article 6(4) provides that persons awarded before the Law entered into force have the same rights as those awarded under it. A provision that gives earlier awardees the rights of the lists must also subject them to the lists' conditions; otherwise every award conferred before 2003 would be beyond review, a result the Law does not state. Article 9(3), as I quoted it in my application, empowers the State Awards Council to consider “kitus su apdovanojimais susijusius klausimus” and to advise the President. Article 30 allows the President to withdraw the Order of the Cross of Vytis and its medal where the awardee is convicted of a serious crime or commits a misconduct that disgraces the name of an awardee; the two grounds are independent, so a criminal conviction is not a precondition. Whether Article 30 reaches an interwar fifth-degree Cross of Vytis must be determined from its current classification. I invoke Article 30 only to the extent the Chancellor confirms it applies.

19. Article 18(1) is discretionary. I ask for a reasoned decision, not a predetermined one. I recognize that the Law's provisions on returning insignia (Article 18(3)) were written with living awardees in mind and that the Office may consider whether the Law reaches deceased awardees or awards conferred by the interwar state. If the President concludes that he lacks power over any award, I ask that he say so in writing, identify the legal obstacle and the competent authority, and provide the dates, numbers and legal bases of all post-1990 decisions applying Article 18(1) or Article 30, so far as possible without disclosing protected personal data. Measure 3.4 of the plan approved by Government Resolution No. 33 shows that the Government itself regards the facilitation of such withdrawals as a matter for legislation by early 2027; the President need not wait for it, because Article 18(1) already exists. Nor does measure 3.4 narrow Article 18(1). The

measure describes the cases in which the Government intends to make withdrawal easier — collaboration with the occupation regimes' repressive structures or participation in the killing of civilians. Article 18(1) asks a different and broader question: whether an awardee's conduct disgraces the award. I do not contend that the evidence places Škirpa within the measure's description, and I do not rely on it for that purpose.

20. An award decision under Article 18 is not a criminal judgment and not a historical tribunal's finding of murder. It is a decision about continuing eligibility for state honor. The question is not whether Škirpa was convicted of a crime — he was not, and I do not suggest otherwise — but whether his documented conduct is compatible with the Republic continuing to list him among those it honors. I am not a lawyer and do not offer binding advice on Lithuanian law; I ask the competent institutions to determine it.

21. My position is independent and evidence-bound. In assessing the record I treat the Centre's statements as assertions to be tested rather than as proof: its authorship gives them no evidentiary weight of their own, and every factual proposition in this application rests on primary records, official external records, or independent scholarship.

III. The President's own words

22. At Paneriai on 23 September 2020, the President said, as the English text published by the Lithuanian Jewish Community records, that the only way to come to terms with history is to realize and tell ourselves the truth, however painful it may be, and: “It was difficult for us to admit to ourselves that our country's citizens died at the hands of Lithuanians as well.” (Exhibit C5; the Lithuanian original published by the Office of the President should control.)

23. I ask the President to give practical effect to those words in this decision: to apply them to the awards the Republic still maintains, and not to presume that existing institutional interpretations are conclusive. The Republic's leadership set the same standard in the 1990s. Finnish diplomatic reports record Prime Minister Šleževičius calling in September 1994 for an honest and open assessment of the persecution and killing of Jews and apologizing for Lithuanian participation, and President Algirdas Brazauskas apologizing in Israel in March 1995 for Lithuanians who killed, shot, drove Jews to their deaths and robbed them, with commitments to systematic investigation and review of disputed rehabilitations. (Exhibit F10; diplomatic reports, not exact-quotation authority.) Less than four months after that apology, the Government reburied Škirpa in a Government-organized ceremony.

24. This application concerns the documented conduct of identified individuals and the reliability of identified state institutions. It does not attribute collective guilt to the Lithuanian nation.

IV. Lithuania's international standing, and why the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is copied

25. I am sending a copy of this supplement to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs because the Škirpa awards bear directly on the international image of the Lithuanian state. The Ministry has already carried the Centre's historical characterizations abroad: its letter of 12 May 2026 to a member of the United States Congress relayed the Centre's position on Brazaitis and had to concede that the “complete exoneration” formulation was legally imprecise (Part VI, Section B). Under measure 3.12 of the Government's plan, a strategy for Lithuania's participation in the IHRA is to be prepared by mid-2027, with the institutions that appoint the delegation's members participating. What Lithuania tells its allies and international partners about its Holocaust record must be able to withstand examination of the documents.

26. Russian state propaganda portrays Lithuania as a state that honors Holocaust perpetrators and falsifies its national history. I reject Russian falsification of history on the same principle on which I object to Lithuanian falsification: the evidence determines the answer, not the political interest of the state that tells the story. A Kremlin narrative does not become true because a Lithuanian institution leaves an honor unexamined, and an honor does not become justified because the Kremlin attacks it. But every state honor kept without examination, and every official text that converts a discontinued foreign proceeding into an acquittal, hands that narrative material it did not have to earn. The allegation of falsification I raise in Part X is different in kind from the Kremlin's: it concerns specific, documented characterizations by named institutions, and it asks for an investigation, not a verdict. The answer to both is the same — the documents, examined in the open.

27. The President and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can give that allegation the strongest documented answer: by telling the truth about the Holocaust in Lithuania, examining the Škirpa record independently, correcting what the evidence requires to be corrected, and showing the work. A state that confronts its own record openly cannot credibly be accused of falsifying it. A state that defends unexamined honors with characterizations it has already conceded are imprecise invites the accusation. An independent review serves Lithuania's security and democratic reputation precisely because its findings are not predetermined.

V. The historical case concerning Škirpa

A. Leadership of the Berlin LAF

28. Škirpa founded and led the Lithuanian Activist Front in Berlin. That is not disputed: the Centre's own assessments identify him as its leader. Leadership is the starting point of an individual inquiry, not a substitute for proof of personal drafting, approval or command. The inquiry must separate organizational leadership, authorship of particular texts, approval, dissemination, contemporaneous knowledge, later actions and retrospective self-description, and must apply one attribution standard to adverse and favorable evidence alike.

B. The documents, by issuer

29. Archival custody is not authorship. LCVA fond 648 is the fond of the Lithuanian Legation in London; the LAF materials discussed below are preserved there in apyrašas 2, files 581 and 582. Their presence establishes custody and provenance, not Škirpa's personal authorship of each document.

30. Document LVIII (LCVA f. 648, ap. 2, b. 582, l. 188–197; EAIS record 1071179), dated 24 March 1941, is marked “VISIŠKAI SLAPTAI” and titled “Lietuvai išlaisvinti nurodymai.” Its opening directs that its contents be passed to uprising centers only orally, through completely trusted couriers. In the uprising-preparation section it calls for intensified anti-Communist and anti-Jewish action and states the objective of making Jews flee Lithuania with the retreating Soviet forces. “Priversti žydus bėgti iš Lietuvos” then appears as a numbered operational task. As the Centre's own 2024 report quotes it, the document says an atmosphere must be created in which “nė vienas žydas nedrįstų net minties prileisti, kad naujoje Lietuvoje jis galės turėti bent minimalių teisių ir bendrai pragyvenimo galimybių,” and states the objective directly: “Tikslas priversti visus žydus bėgti iš Lietuvos drauge su raudonaisiais rusais. Juo jų daugiau šia proga iš Lietuvos pasišalins, tuo bus vėliau lengviau baigti nuo žydų nusikratyti. Savo laiku Vytauto Didžiojo suteiktas Lietuvoje žydams svetingumas atšaukiamas visiems amžiams ...” The Centre's report quotes the last sentence without the word “svetingumas” (hospitality), leaving it without its subject. (Exhibit D1.)

31. Document LXIV (LCVA f. 648, ap. 2, b. 582, l. 213–215), the appeal “Amžiams išvaduokime Lietuvą nuo žydijos jungo,” is issued and signed in the name of the Lietuvos Aktyvistų Frontas. It announces an hour of final reckoning with the Jews (“galutinio su žydais atsiskaitymo valanda”), directs every Lithuanian Jew without exception to leave Lithuania, provides for Jewish movable and immovable property to pass into Lithuanian national ownership, denies Jews civil rights and livelihood in the restored state, and declares: “Senoji Vytauto Didžiojo laikais suteikta Lietuvoje prieglaudos teisė žydams yra visiškai ir galutinai atšaukiama.” LVIII and LXIV repeat parallel propositions — anti-Jewish mobilization, collective removal, denial of rights and livelihood, and revocation of the Vytautas-era protection. That repetition supports an inference of institutional continuity between the secret uprising instructions and the public appeal. It does not by itself prove that Škirpa wrote either. (Exhibit D2.)

32. A leaflet dated 19 March 1941 and issued in the name of the Lithuanian Information Bureau in Berlin (Lietuvių informacijų biuras) — known in the scholarship as the LAF appeal of 19 March 1941 — states in point 6, as the Centre's 2024 report quotes it: “Jau dabar „painformuokite“ žydus, kad jų likimas aiškus, todėl kas gali, tegu jau šiandien nešdinasi iš Lietuvos, kad nebūtų bereikalingų aukų. Lemiamu momentu jų turtą perimkite į savo rankas, kad niekas veltui nežūtų.” Stanislovas Stasiulis has shown that the leaflet survives in two versions, that copies reached Lithuania about 23 March 1941, and that the second version contains the sentence: “Išdavikams bus tik tuomet dovanota, jei jie tikrai įrodys, kad likvidavo nors po vieną

žydą.” He places the Bureau within the Berlin LAF circle, leaves the authenticity of that version unresolved for lack of data, and concludes that its authorship could belong to the Berlin LAF leadership or its Voldemarist faction. (S. Stasiulis, “1941 m. kovo 19 d. LAF atsišaukimas: provokacija, falsifikatas ar tikras dokumentas?”, Lietuvos istorijos studijos 38 (2016), pp. 73, 81–82; Exhibit D9.) I do not attribute it to Škirpa personally; the reviewers should establish its provenance.

33. Bronys Raila, head of the LAF propaganda commission, wrote in the brochure “Už ką kovoja aktyvistai,” again as quoted in the Centre’s own reports, that the LAF was determined “visiškai atskirti žydus nuo Lietuvos valstybinio bei tautinio kūno ir laipsniškai įvykdyti žydų pašalinimą iš lietuviškos žemės aplamai.”

34. The index of file 582 also lists Document LV, “Svetingumo atšaukimas žydams,” at l. 182–183, marked as a draft (projektas). My complaint of 2017 quoted this text and described it as Škirpa’s appeal to the Lithuanian Jews. I now identify it as Document LV, marked as a draft, and I do not attribute it to him personally or rely on it as an issued proclamation. The state nonetheless had specific notice of its content nine years ago.

C. Škirpa’s own writings

35. In his manuscript memoir “Kovok! Pastangos gelbėti Lietuvą 1939–1941 m.” (LCVA f. 648, ap. 2, b. 581, pp. 136–137), Škirpa discusses an anti-Jewish appeal issued shortly before the German–Soviet war and directs the reader to “Dokm. LXIV.” The cross-reference establishes his knowledge of the specific appeal and his own linkage of it to his account of LAF activity. It does not prove that he drafted every sentence. LGGRTC letter No. 14R-51 of 11 July 2018 refers to a Škirpa memoir manuscript held at Vilnius University Library; whether that is the same text, a copy, or a different manuscript should be established by the reviewers. (Exhibit D3.)

36. In item 18 of his 1973 documentary volume “Sukilimas Lietuvos suverenumui atstatyti” (beginning at printed p. 165), Škirpa describes an administrative-formation proposal (Administracijos sudarymo pasiūlymas) given to Lt. Col. Graebe. Point 5 names Jews, together with others characterized as pillars of the Soviet regime, for immediate dismissal and, where necessary, arrest and accountability. Immediately after the eighth introductory point, Škirpa states that he inserted all of those introductory points on his own initiative, without Graebe asking him to do so. This is a retrospective statement written three decades later, and I do not ask that more be drawn from it than it says. But if adverse organizational material is discounted unless it can be personally attributed to Škirpa, then his own published first-person statement must be weighed or expressly distinguished. Neither the 2015 assessment nor Report 9R-598 cites printed pp. 165–167, names item 18, mentions Graebe or discusses this statement, although both cite the 1973 volume for other propositions. (Exhibit D4.)

37. At printed p. 171 of the same volume, Škirpa states that he omits the first four sections of the 24 March instructions, including section IV, which he calls orientational. The omission is therefore declared by the editor himself. Where a state institution relies on the participant-edited

1973 presentation, it must check the archival version and say whether the difference affected its assessment.

38. The Finnish Foreign Ministry archive preserves a German-language memorandum (Denkschrift) by Škirpa “betreffend die Wiederherstellung der staatlichen Unabhängigkeit Litauens und seine Wünsche,” distributed on 23 July 1941 and transmitted from Berlin under Finnish legation cover letter No. 2649/829/41. The memorandum sets out a German-oriented program: active cooperation with Germany in the reorganization of Europe, assistance to the entering German army, and a place for Lithuania in a European order led by Germany and its allies. I cite it for Škirpa's political alignment and for provenance, not as proof that he wrote LVIII or LXIV or of culpability for killings. The same archive records a transmission of 23 September 1941 to Finnish envoy Toivo Kivimäki, enclosing Provisional Government Protocol No. 35 and the 5 August 1941 memorandum to the Generalkommissar signed by Juozas Ambrazevičius and ministers; I cite it only to identify the source set. (Exhibits D5–D6.)

D. The 1939 record

39. Two peer-reviewed studies published by Vytautas Magnus University in 2017 report 1939 archival material with exact locators. I have not inspected the originals, and I present these as scholarly reports and retrieval leads. Šarūnas Liekis cites a Lithuanian legation report of 14 December 1939 (LCVA f. 383, ap. 7, b. 2230, l. 5–5a) describing a conversation between Škirpa and Ernst Woermann during the Suwałki refugee crisis, in which, in Liekis's account, Škirpa said that Jews were not loved in Lithuania either, that there were already too many, that Lithuania could not afford refuge especially for Jews, and suggested the Lublin area instead. Liekis also records that Škirpa had earlier intervened, on his government's instruction, against Germany's forcible expulsion of Jewish refugees across the Lithuanian border. Both facts belong in the record. Simonas Jazavita cites Škirpa's report of 13 March 1939 to Foreign Minister Juozas Urbšys (LCVA f. 648, ap. 1, b. 39, l. 155–157), recording that in conversation with Alfred Rosenberg Škirpa said roughly ninety percent of anti-Communist agitation was stirred up by Jews. Jazavita also cites Urbšys's personal letter of 15 August 1939 to Deputy Minister Kazys Bizauskas (cited by Jazavita as MDMMNLL, f. 61, b. 231, l. 7–8), in which Urbšys objected that Škirpa's article in the *Berliner Börsen-Zeitung* was written in “openly Nazi rhetoric” and asked that Škirpa be warned. Jazavita treats it as an open question whether Škirpa's antisemitic statements were sincere or conjunctural, made to please his German interlocutors, and notes his earlier closeness to politicians well disposed to Lithuanian Jews; that assessment belongs in the record too. He further cites Škirpa's lecture of 17 November 1940, “Sketches of the Lithuanian Activist Front Platform” (LCVA f. 648, ap. 2, b. 582, l. 131). The 1939 items predate the Soviet occupation of June 1940 and therefore bear on whether the 1941 program can be explained solely as a reaction to the occupation. (Exhibits D7–D8.)

E. The strongest case in Škirpa's favor

40. The review must state and test the strongest case for Škirpa. He was a volunteer of 1918, took part in raising the national flag on Gediminas Tower on 1 January 1919, sat in the

Constituent Seimas, served Lithuania as a diplomat, and opposed the Soviet occupation. He was not trusted by the Nazis: the Centre told the Ombudsman that the Gestapo placed him under house arrest after the Provisional Government proclaimed independence, and its Report 9R-598 states that the Berlin police did so, that the arrest was lifted after three weeks, and that he was not permitted to travel to Lithuania. The Centre states that there is no information connecting him to the killings at the Seventh Fort in Kaunas in July 1941 and that he was not the founder or commander of the TDA battalion. The Centre states, citing Liudas Truska and Vygantas Vareikis among other sources, that on the eve of the war the Berlin LAF had no information that the Nazis planned to murder all Jews — while the same report also cites Truska's view that LAF appeals were one of the reasons part of the population joined in carrying out Nazi crimes — and on the distinction between a program of expulsion and a program of extermination. A newspaper report in *Draugas* of 25 June 1941 states that “pulk. Škirpa uždraudęs žydų persekiojimus Lietuvoje.” He was never charged or convicted. In 2018 the Centre also raised Raila's retrospective suggestion that hostile actors might have inserted antisemitic language into LAF texts. Finally, Report 9R-598 concludes that Škirpa “nebuvo kolaborantas,” applying a definition of collaborator limited to officials of the administration of an occupied state.

41. Each proposition must be tested against the contemporary record. I make no allegation that Škirpa was present at, ordered or directed any killing. His absence from Lithuania does not dispose of possible leadership responsibility for incitement, expulsion and expropriation. The expulsion–extermination distinction is real, but Article 18 asks whether conduct disgraces an award, not whether it amounts to genocide. The *Draugas* item is evidence that a newspaper reported a prohibition; it is not an authenticated order, and no underlying order, transmission record or source has been produced. The insertion hypothesis deserves testing, but no provenance chain, parallel copy or forensic comparison supporting it has been published, and it does not address LVIII, item 18 or the b. 581 cross-reference. The honors decision need not establish criminal culpability, but it must not hold Škirpa responsible for acts the evidence does not attribute to him. The Centre's “not a collaborator” conclusion answers a different question from the one Article 18 asks: whether he held office in an occupation administration, not whether his conduct disgraces an award.

VI. LGGRTC's 2015–2024 assessments: a reproducibility problem

A. What the Centre acknowledged

42. The Centre's earlier assessments did not ignore antisemitism. In its explanations to the Seimas Ombudsman, its Head quoted the Centre's Škirpa conclusion: “In the activities of K. Škirpa and the Berlin LAF, antisemitism was raised to the political level, and this could have encouraged part of the Lithuanian population to become involved in the Holocaust.” My application of 27 September cites the corresponding passages of the October 2015 assessment at pp. 1, 3–4 and 6. The record contains three dated versions of the Centre's position: letter No. 13R-267 of 25 September 2015, the assessment published in October 2015 (“Dėl Kazio Škirpos

veiklos Antrojo pasaulinio karo metais”), and what the Head described to the Ombudsman as “the Centre's report of 2017-04-04.” The reviewers should identify which text carries each proposition.

43. The favorable conclusion rested on three limiting propositions, which Report 9R-598 repeated in 2024: that the LAF proposed to solve the “Jewish problem” by expulsion rather than genocide; that on the eve of the war the Berlin LAF had no information that the Nazis planned to murder all Jews; and that Škirpa, living in Berlin, had no connection to the killings at the Seventh Fort (2015 assessment, pp. 4–6; Report 9R-598, pp. 5 and 7).

B. The undisclosed favorable premises and the Ombudsman's findings

44. In explanations to the Seimas Ombudsman quoted in Report No. 4D-2017/1-1558 of 2 February 2018 (cover letter No. 4D-2017/1-1558/3D-317), §8.2.4, the Centre's Head stated that in writing the Škirpa report the Centre “also took into account collateral circumstances that it did not mention”: that Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, who took over the Provisional Government's duties after Škirpa's arrest, had been investigated in 1974 by the U.S. Congress and the Immigration and Naturalization Service and “was fully acquitted,” and that Škirpa “spent the last 30 years of his life in the USA ... without facing any charges.” Neither proposition concerns anything Škirpa did in Berlin or Lithuania in 1940–1941. Both convert foreign silence or administrative inaction into favorable historical evidence. (Exhibit E1; English translation in the certified Seimas copy S-2026-4031.)

45. The Ombudsman found the complaint against the Centre's officials justified; found that the Centre failed to answer the questions raised, did not observe the principle of transparency and did not give the clear, reasoned reply that public-administration law requires; and observed signs of systematic improper implementation of legal requirements in the Centre's handling of requests. In the same proceeding the Ministry of Justice noted that the Centre's regulations confine it to assessments of a historical nature and questioned whether it may issue conclusions of a legal nature at all. These were administrative findings, not a judgment that Škirpa committed a crime.

46. The Centre repeated the “complete exoneration” proposition in its Škirpa-specific reply, letter No. 14R-51 of 11 July 2018, while reproducing on the same page the narrower American wording that the names had been removed from an active list and the investigations deactivated. (Exhibit E2.)

47. The American record shows what actually happened: by letter of 13 January 1975 on the letterhead of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law (Chairman Joshua Eilberg), the Subcommittee transmitted an INS letter stating that Brazaitis and Jonas Šepetyš had been removed from the active list. That was an administrative closure, not a judicial acquittal. On 12 May 2026 Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Vidmantas Verbickas, Ref. (19.2.3)3-2806, wrote to U.S. Representative Brad Sherman that, on information supplied by the Centre, the “complete exoneration” formulation was legally imprecise, expressed

regret for the wording, and recognized that administrative discontinuation of an investigation is not formal judicial exoneration under U.S. law. (Exhibits E3–E4.)

48. The concession does not prove that every conclusion about Škirpa is false. It means that a favorable premise the Centre itself said it used in its Škirpa assessment has been conceded to be legally imprecise. No reissued Škirpa assessment showing how the conclusion stands without that premise has been published. On 26 August 2026 the Centre corrected one “rehabilitated” formulation concerning Brazaitis on its page 3058, while a separate statement on the same page and its page 2969 continued to attribute a rehabilitation of Brazaitis to the U.S. Department of Justice; on 13 October 2026 it refused to correct its 2018 letters (55R-1016). (Exhibits E5, F5.)

C. Notice since 2017

49. The documentary problem is not new. My 2017 complaint, preserved in the Seimas Human Rights Committee file produced on 23 September 2026 (S-2026-4031), specifically identified the 24 March 1941 instructions and quoted the text revoking the Vytautas-era hospitality, which it then described as Škirpa's appeal and which I now identify as Document LV, a draft. The notice concerned the documents' content, and the Ombudsman required the Centre to answer. The state therefore had specific notice of these documents seven years before Report 9R-598.

D. Report 9R-598 (2024)

50. Report No. 9R-598, “Dėl Kazio Škirpos asmenybės (istorinė-archyvinė pažyma),” is dated 25 June 2024 and was prepared by Dr. Alfredas Rukšėnas and signed by Director General Dr. Arūnas Bubnys. The Centre's own public file of it is named 20240808_skirpa_pazyma.pdf; it is one document. It was requested by the interinstitutional commission that assesses public objects under the law prohibiting the propagation of totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, which on 28 February 2024 considered a request to approve a plaque at Gedimino pr. 40, Vilnius, describing Škirpa as “1941 metų birželio sukilimo organizatorius.” (Exhibit E7.)

51. The report quotes the 19 March notice, the 24 March instructions including the Vytautas revocation sentence, the Raila brochure and the appeal “Amžiams išvaduokime Lietuvą nuo žydijos jungo.” I do not allege that it concealed them. It concluded that the proposed inscription “atspindi teisingą informaciją” about Škirpa's life, while suggesting that a plaque to the Vilnius military commandant's office would better suit the building. It did not assess fitness for state decorations. It cites no LCVA f. 648 file and does not discuss the b. 581 cross-reference, item 18 of the 1973 volume, the 1939 diplomatic record, or the undisclosed premises acknowledged to the Ombudsman.

52. The report relies on the Draugas item of 25 June 1941 and then frames its own research question on the premise that the prohibition existed: “Kodėl K. Škirpa uždraudė žydų persekiojimus Lietuvoje, nors jo vadovaujamos Berlyno LAF'o organizacijos veikloje stebimos antisemitizmo apraiškos?” A favorable proposition thus enters through a second-hand newspaper report without an underlying order, while adverse LAF material is subjected to strict personal-attribution objections. The report states no single attribution rule applied to both.

53. The Lithuanian Jewish Community, stating that it spoke for thirty-two Lithuanian and foreign Jewish organizations, rejected Report 9R-598 on 26 August 2024, objecting that Škirpa's antisemitic incitement preceded the violence and that the report minimized his role. These objections are the Community's; I attribute them to it. (Exhibit E8.)

54. On 24 September 2026 the Prosecutor General's Office declined to open a pre-trial investigation into Report 9R-598 (AP-29927, material No. M-2-01-00074-26), treating it as a historiographical assessment and the contested passages as historians' opinion. That decision applied the criminal threshold; it did not validate the report's historical method, and I have not appealed it. (Exhibit E9.)

VII. Disputed exoneration chains and the reliability of the Centre as assessor

55. The Centre's treatment of four distinct legal outcomes bears on whether the President can rely on it without independent verification. This is an objection to institutional method. I do not claim that all four cases were cited in Report 9R-598, or that findings about German officials can be transferred to Škirpa. Gewecke, Bub and Schleef chiefly concern the Centre's defense of Jonas Noreika; for Škirpa they are comparators of the Centre's source and correction practice. Brazaitis bears on Škirpa directly, because the Centre said it used his “exoneration” in its Škirpa assessment.

56. Hans Gewecke. The Justiz und NS-Verbrechen index identifies the case as Lfd. Nr. 722, Landgericht Lübeck 2 Ks 1/68, judgment of 27 January 1970, recording Gewecke's sentence as four and a half years; the Bundesgerichtshof decision of 26 January 1971 is 5 StR 631/70. The proceeding concerned the hanging on 6 June 1943 of a Jew who had brought food into the Šiauliai ghetto. The Centre's 2019 memorandum said that the court “atmetė” the Holocaust charges against Gewecke and Bub; the index shows that Gewecke was convicted on the charge tried. What other charges, if any, were brought and rejected can be established only from the judgment, which the Centre says it has not examined. (Exhibit F2.)

57. Ewald Bub. The same index records Bub's proceeding as “Verfahren eingestellt” — discontinued, not acquitted. The Centre's 17 December 2019 memorandum on Noreika said Bub “buvo visiškai išteisintas.” In 55R-951 the Centre conceded that it has never examined the judgment and that the statement is likely not legally correct.

58. Hermann Schleef. On 27 April 1970 Oldenburg authorities removed him from further prosecution for insufficient evidence; that is not an acquittal. A separate 1947 Spruchgericht proceeding resulted in a conviction. On 11 February 2020 the Centre's Director General described him as acquitted (“išteisino”) by the Oldenburg court. In 2021 the Lower Saxony State Archive transmitted the Schleef scans to the Lithuanian Embassy in Germany; that establishes possession by the Lithuanian state, not that the Centre read them. In 55R-1093 the Centre could not say why it chose the word. (Exhibits F3–F4.)

59. Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis. An administrative closure was described as “complete exoneration” and “rehabilitation”; the Foreign Ministry has conceded the imprecision; the Centre has corrected one page and refused to correct its 2018 letters.

60. Brazaitis: administrative discontinuation became exoneration. Bub: discontinued proceedings became complete acquittal. Schleef: an insufficient-evidence disposition became exoneration. The repeated errors, the undisclosed favorable premises, the Ombudsman's transparency finding, the Foreign Ministry's correction, the Ministry of Justice's observation that the Centre's role is confined to historical rather than legal assessment, and the failure to reissue a reproducible Škirpa assessment deprive the Centre of any presumption of historical reliability in this proceeding. That is an argued conclusion about the weight its views deserve. It is not a claim that the Centre has ceased to exist or lost its statutory competence, nor that every employee or publication is wrong. The Centre must supply its records, have the opportunity to respond, and be independently evaluated.

61. Since the Government has made the Centre a participating institution in measure 3.4 and the principal implementer of measures 3.1 and 3.27, the reliability of its historical characterizations is no longer a matter for this application alone. Its Škirpa work is a suitable first test.

VIII. The national encyclopedia

62. The Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija (VLE) is its own editorial institution and must be evaluated as such, not treated as a department of LGGRTC. Its entry for Brazaitis identifies him as one of the LAF's leaders and as Prime Minister and Minister of Education of the 1941 Provisional Government, but does not discuss the persecution of Jews. My comparative work on town entries raises further questions about omissions of identifiable Lithuanian participants in persecution, dispossession and murder. I ask that independent historians evaluate the relevance of these descriptions to Škirpa's commemoration and identify, for each, the absent proposition, the source establishing it, the editorial scope, any earlier notice and the publisher's response. Repeated omissions may establish a pattern of deficient official representation; deliberate intent should not be asserted without evidence of knowledge and editorial choice. Corrections must be addressed to the encyclopedia's publisher, not imputed to the Centre.

IX. A single procedure for independent review and decision

63. I propose one procedure. The Chancellor of Orders certifies the awards and the award files. The State Awards Council considers the matter under Article 9(3). Before the Council concludes, the President requests the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania to consider preparing an independent historical evaluation, and invites the Faculty of History of Vilnius University and the Lithuanian Institute of History to nominate conflict-screened specialists in 1939–1941 Lithuanian history, Holocaust history, archival diplomacies and legal history. The Council weighs the historical evaluation as

advice, and the President decides and gives written reasons. The President cannot direct an independent university or the Commission to reach a conclusion, and the Commission cannot replace the statutory Council. If the Commission declines, the President can still obtain independent scholarly evidence for the Council.

64. The Commission was established by President Valdas Adamkus on 7 September 1998; its 2019 public statement refers to the President's decree of 16 October 2012 as its current mandate. In that statement of 8 April 2019, concerning the Government's plan to absorb its Secretariat, the Commission invoked “the Commission's principle of independence and unfettered research” and warned against “direct interference by the Government.” Dr. Arūnas Bubnys was among its signatories. That standard should govern this review. (Exhibits G1–G3.)

65. Conflicts must be resolved before the review begins. The Commission's published membership (page last modified 27 January 2026) lists Dr. Arūnas Bubnys — who signed Report 9R-598, letter 11R-12 and letters 55R-951 and 55R-1093 — as a member of its Sub-commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi Occupation Regime and the Holocaust. He must not take part in selecting reviewers, supervising the review, or deliberating on the reliability of his own work or institution. Professor Šarūnas Liekis, a member of the same sub-commission, is the author of a 2017 study cited in this application; I ask that this be disclosed, not that he be excluded, unless the Commission's rules require otherwise. I ask every participating member to disclose any authorship, review, supervision or public statement concerning the Centre's Škirpa texts of 2015, 2017 and 2024, under uniform, pre-published conflict rules. The same disclosure should apply to every member, including those who hold or have held parliamentary or ministerial office with responsibility for state commemorations or publications concerning Škirpa. The Centre may submit evidence and a response on equal terms with other sources, but must not appoint, supervise, edit or veto the reviewers.

66. The reviewers' written terms should require: publication of the source inventory and method; access to the Centre's working files behind the 2015, 2017 and 2024 texts, subject to lawful restrictions; collation of originals, transcriptions and translations; separate findings on Škirpa's personal acts, the LAF's organizational conduct and later commemoration; explicit treatment of the strongest contrary material; and a reasoned public opinion stating which propositions are established, which disputed and which unprovable. They should answer whether the Centre's conclusions survive once the misdescribed Brazaitis disposition and the American-residence premise are removed; whether the Centre applied consistent attribution thresholds to adverse and favorable evidence; and what the 1939, 1941, 1973 and Finnish records establish about Škirpa. They should not be instructed to reach any predetermined verdict. The President, not the reviewers, decides which statutory grounds are met.

X. National values and the duty of presidential leadership

67. This is a decision about the values the Republic of Lithuania chooses to uphold through affirmative state honors. The documentary record of the Lithuanian Activist Front's anti-Jewish

program must be evaluated on its own terms: racial exclusion, proposed removal of rights, and expulsionist aims were incompatible with the democratic principle of equal citizenship. The decision is whether the Republic will continue to honor that program's leader without an independent accounting of his individual responsibility, or apply the historical truth and democratic equality to which the restored Republic has committed itself.

68. More than thirty-five years have passed since Lithuania restored independence on 11 March 1990. I have pursued the documentary record despite sustained institutional opposition. The accumulated contradictions, material omissions, inaccurate characterizations of proceedings as exonerations, and unresolved correction demands support a serious allegation of historical falsification by state institutions: that they repeatedly published inaccurate historical characterizations, including descriptions of discontinued proceedings as acquittals, and did not correct them after notice. I ask the President to investigate that allegation openly, rather than accepting it as proven merely because I assert it. The evidence must determine the scope of institutional responsibility, whether error, negligent misrepresentation, deliberate distortion, or a mixture of these occurred, and which officers and agencies acted.

69. The values choice cannot be evaded through a claim that LAF declarations lack present legal force. A constitutional republic may rightly reject antisemitic proclamations in law while discrediting its own democratic commitments by honoring individuals without critically examining their role in promoting those proclamations. Lithuania must decide what its honors signify: respect for an exclusionary and expulsionist antisemitic program, or respect for equal citizenship, truthful history, and human dignity. Honoring, without examination, individuals whose records include leadership of such a program, as a source of unqualified national virtue, is incompatible with the dignified democratic future that Lithuania professes to build. This is a challenge to state decisions and identifiable historical actors, not an attribution of collective guilt to Lithuanians.

70. For that reason, I respectfully request that the President formally invite the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania to undertake an independent historical evaluation of both Kazys Škirpa's record and the reliability of LGGRTC's assessments concerning him, with qualified historians nominated by Vilnius University's Faculty of History and the Lithuanian Institute of History. LGGRTC must itself be an object of the investigation and may respond and furnish its records, but must not choose, supervise, or adjudicate the investigators. Any reviewer with material involvement in the disputed assessments — including Arūnas Bubnys — must recuse. The report and the President's reasoned response should be made public, subject to legitimate archival and privacy constraints.

71. I ask the President also to recognize the patriotic purpose of my work. I am a Lithuanian citizen who has spent decades examining difficult chapters of our national history, not to diminish Lithuania, but to help strengthen it through accuracy, accountability, reconciliation and public trust. I hope he will recognize this sustained effort as an expression of loyalty to Lithuania and a commitment to its democratic future. I also hope that, in time, the Republic will recognize

the work of Silvia Foti and me as genuine service to the nation. Ms. Foti has confronted painful evidence concerning her own grandfather, Jonas Noreika; I have continued to place documentary challenges before Lithuania's institutions despite substantial resistance. Rather than defining patriotism by the uncritical commemoration of figures such as Škirpa, Noreika or Brazaitis, Lithuania should value the civic courage required to confront the record, correct official misrepresentation and seek reconciliation. I make no claim to a decoration or other personal benefit in this petition. My formal request concerns the historical review and statutory reassessment of Škirpa's honors; the recognition I hope for is recognition that principled criticism can itself be an act of Lithuanian patriotism. Ms. Foti is copied on this supplement for information; she is neither a co-applicant nor a signatory.

72. As a citizen of Lithuania, I want the truth and the best for Lithuania, and genuine reconciliation between Lithuania and Jews. The President and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have it in their power to answer those who say Lithuania honors Holocaust perpetrators and falsifies its history, by telling the truth about the Holocaust in Lithuania. I stand ready to help: I can provide the President, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the independent reviewers with the documents, archival locators, correspondence and corrections I have assembled over decades, subject to the same evidentiary scrutiny as every other source. I offer that help with documentary verification, not as a demand for any particular scholarly result.

XI. Relief requested

73. I respectfully request that the President:

1. Register this supplement under my application of 27 September 2026; give me the registration number of that application, copies of any replies, and the applicable timetable.
2. Direct the Chancellor of Orders to certify every state award conferred on Kazys Škirpa — including the 1919 Cross of Vytis, the Founder-Volunteers Medal and the 1935 Order of Vytautas the Great, third degree — and to supply the conferral decrees, recommendations, award files, current legal classification and register entries.
3. Forward the question of the Founder-Volunteers Medal to the Minister of National Defence if the President is not competent, and inform me.
4. Refer the matter to the State Awards Council under Article 9(3), together with the documentary material identified in this supplement and my application, not only the Centre's 2015 and 2024 texts.
5. Request the International Commission to consider an independent historical evaluation of the Škirpa record and of the Centre's Škirpa assessments, with specialists nominated by the Vilnius University Faculty of History and the Lithuanian Institute of History, under written conflict rules and with the recusal of Dr. Arūnas Bubnys and of any reviewer materially involved in the disputed texts.

6. Ask the reviewers to assess, as sources, the Centre's work on Škirpa: its 2015, 2017 and 2024 Škirpa texts; letters 14R-51, 55R-21, 55R-951, 55R-1016, 55R-1093 and 11R-12; its working files; its exoneration characterizations; and its correction record.
 7. Obtain and preserve the originals identified in Part XII, Section B, and assess both adverse and potentially exculpatory evidence.
 8. After that review, decide award by award under the law in force; withdraw any award where the President finds the statutory criteria met; otherwise state the documentary and legal reasons for retaining it.
 9. If the President considers that he lacks power over any award because of the awardee's death, the award's interwar origin or another reason, state the legal obstacle and the competent authority, and provide the dates, numbers and legal bases of all post-1990 decisions applying Article 18(1) or Article 30, so far as possible without disclosing protected personal data.
 10. Transmit the reasoned decision to the Government and invite it to take the outcome into account in implementing measures 3.1, 3.4 and 3.27 of its action plan, including by ensuring that the Centre does not evaluate its own Škirpa work.
 11. Provide the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a copy of the reasoned decision and any public historical findings, and invite it to ensure that Lithuania's international communications on the Holocaust, including Lithuania's IHRA strategy under measure 3.12 and its correspondence with foreign legislators, reflect the outcome of this review and correct any characterization the review finds inaccurate.
 12. Request source-specific corrections by the competent institutions where omissions or erroneous exoneration language are established, distinguishing the encyclopedia publisher's obligations from the Centre's.
 13. Give a reasoned written answer to each ground raised, identify any documents withheld and the legal basis for withholding them, and inform me of the available administrative and judicial review routes and deadlines.
- 74.** Separately from the statutory application, I respectfully invite the President to address the nation during the 85th-anniversary year of the destruction of Lithuania's Jewish communities in 1941: to acknowledge the murdered Jews as fellow citizens; to state that Nazi Germany directed the Holocaust and that documented Lithuanian individuals and formations also took part; to name the actors the evidence substantiates without transferring individual responsibility to the nation; and to explain how the Republic reviews disputed honors, what records and independent scholarship inform that review, and what corrective decisions follow.

XII. Documentary basis, candid limits and exhibits

75. This supplement is intended to stand on its own. My application of 27 September 2026 and its annexes, including my revised IHRA submission of 24 September 2026 (“The Škirpa Determination”), remain part of the record; the 24 September submission supersedes the factual presentation of my IHRA submission of 19 August 2026.

76. The record is incomplete in identified respects. I have not obtained the award decrees or register entries. The official URL of the October 2015 assessment is listed (E6), but the Centre's server could not be reached when this text was prepared; I ask for a certified copy. The original German judicial records, the 1939 originals and some letters are held by me only as references, scans or institutional descriptions. I do not infer that any missing document does not exist, and I do not ask that lack of access be converted into an inference for either side. I ask the competent institutions to obtain, certify and assess the records in their custody.

77. My own publications and complaints, where listed, show that I raised an issue or gave an institution notice. They are not offered as proof of the historical propositions, which rest on the archival documents, the Centre's own statements, official external administrative and judicial records, and independent scholarship.

A. Exhibits with public locators

A — Prior filings

- A1. Application of 27 September 2026, QES-signed, principal request: https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/09/Prasymas_Prezidentui_Skirpa_Valstybes_Apdovanojimai_2026-09-27_signed.pdf
- A2. Same, consolidated QES-signed PDF with annexes: https://grantgochin.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/QES_SIGN_Skirpa_State_Awards_CONSOLIDATED_2026-09-27_signed.pdf
- A3. Revised IHRA submission, “The Škirpa Determination,” 24 September 2026: https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/10/Skirpa_IHRA_signed.pdf
- A4. IHRA petition of 28 May 2026: <https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/05/IHRA-Petition-Gochin-5-28-26.pdf>
- A5. Combined IHRA package: <https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/08/IHRA-Petition-Gochin-combined.pdf>

C — New factors

- C1. LGGRTC letter No. 11R-12, 22 October 2026 (with e-document metadata): https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/10/Nuorasas_Atsakymas-2R-19-fi.pdf
- C2. Action plan, annex of measures: <https://lrv.lt/media/viesa/saugykla/2026/1/uo5LGCodiC0.pdf> [Approval: Government Resolution No. 33, 21 January 2026; TAR registration 2026-01031; ELI <https://data.e-tar.lt/eli/valst/nut/tar/2026/1031/op>; official <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/4a1ac670fac711f0ac2aa76febda78c1>]
- C3. Action plan, consultation table (derinimo pažyma): <https://lrv.lt/media/viesa/saugykla/2026/1/YUPzML76K2Y.pdf>
- C4. Government approval, 21 January 2026 (LRT): <https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english/19/2813321/lithuania-s-govt-approves-action-plan-to-combat-antisemitism-xenophobia-and-hate>

- C5. Paneriai, 23 September 2020 (Lithuanian Jewish Community English text): <https://www.lzb.lt/en/2020/09/24/president-gitanas-nauseda-speaks-at-ceremony-to-commemorate-victims-of-genocide-at-paneriai/>
- C6. Law on State Awards No. IX-957, e-TAR: <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.F56B1506A5C6/asr> Official consolidated print view: <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalActPrint?actualEditionId=eaMBILVmdL&documentId=TAR.F56B1506A5C6>.

D — Historical sources

- D1. LVIII, LCVA f. 648, ap. 2, b. 582, l. 188–197: https://grantgochin.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/LCVA_F648_A2_B582_Document_LVIII_1941-03-24_Strictly_Secret_Instructions.pdf (EAIS: <https://eais.archyvai.lt/repo-ext/view/1071179>)
- D2. LXIV, l. 213–215: https://grantgochin.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/LCVA_F648_A2_B582_Document_LXIV_LAF_Anti-Jewish_Appeal_Fols_213-215.pdf
- D3. b. 581, manuscript pp. 136–137: https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/10/LCVA_F648_A2_B581_Skirpa_Memoir_pp136-137_Document_LXIV_CrossReference.pdf
- D4. Škirpa, Sukilimas Lietuvos suverenumui atstatyti (1973): <https://grantgochin.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Sukilimas-Lietuvos-suverenumui-atstatyti-Kazys-Skirpa.pdf>
- D5. Finnish file, July 1941 memorandum: <https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/10/7-E-Skirpa-muistio.pdf>
- D6. Finnish file, 1941 independence efforts: <https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/09/7E-Liettuan-itsenaisyyspyrkimykset-1941.pdf>; note of 1942–1943: <https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/09/7E-Liettuan-nootti-1943.pdf>
- D7. Liekis (2017): https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/09/ISSN2335-8769_2017_N_67.PG_179-189.pdf
- D8. Jazavita (2017): https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/09/ISSN2335-8769_2017_N_67.PG_191-213.pdf
- D9. Stasiulis (2016), Lietuvos istorijos studijos 38: <https://www.zurnalai.vu.lt/lietuvos-istorijos-studijos/article/download/10390/8342/10749>

E — LGGRTC record and oversight

- E1. Seimas Human Rights Committee certified file S-2026-4031, with Ombudsman Report No. 4D-2017/1-1558 and English translation: https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/09/Seimas_HRC_Response_2026-09-22_Gochin_with_English_Translation.pdf
- E2. LGGRTC letter No. 14R-51, 11 July 2018: https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/10/GC_reply_Skirpa_20180711-1.pdf;

LGGRTC letter No. 55R-21, 26 February 2018:

<https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/05/Gonocide-Reply-2018-02-26-Holocaust-interpretation.pdf>

- E3. 1975 Subcommittee letter enclosing the INS letter (available on request)
- E4. MFA letter to Rep. Brad Sherman, 12 May 2026:
<https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/06/Letter-to-Rep.-Sherman.pdf>
- E5. LGGRTC pages 3058 and 2969: <https://www.genocid.lt/centras/lt/3058/a/> ;
<https://www.genocid.lt/centras/lt/2969/a/> ; annotated comparison: https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/08/LGGRTC_Annotated_Exhibit_2026-08-30.png
- E6. 2015 assessment (official):
https://www.genocid.lt/UserFiles/File/Pazymos/201510_skirpa_pazyma01.pdf
- E7. Report No. 9R-598 (official):
https://www.genocid.lt/UserFiles/File/Titulinis/2024/20240808_skirpa_pazyma.pdf ;
preserved copies:
https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/07/20240808_skirpa_pazyma.pdf ;
https://www.lzb.lt/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/20240808_skirpa_pazyma-1-1.pdf
- E8. Lithuanian Jewish Community statement, 26 August 2024:
<https://www.lzb.lt/en/2024/08/26/lithuanian-jewish-community-statement-on-genocide-centers-newest-report-on-kazys-skirpa/>
- E9. Prosecutor's decision, 24 September 2026 (AP-29927):
https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/09/Lithuania_Prosecutor_Refusal_AP-29927_AP-29972_2026-09-24.pdf

F — Comparator records and commemoration

- F1. LGGRTC letter No. 55R-951 (29 September / 2 October 2026): https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/10/LGGRTC_55R-951_2026-10-02.pdf
- F2. Justiz und NS-Verbrechen, Lfd. Nr. 722:
<https://junsv.nl/junsv-01/junsv/brd/brdfiles/brd722.htm>
- F3. LGGRTC letter No. 55R-1093 with the 11 February 2020 letter: https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/10/LGGRTC_Evidence_55R1093-1.pdf
- F4. Oldenburg 27 April 1970 disposition and 1947 Spruchgericht record (originals requested; see Section B)
- F5. LGGRTC letter No. 55R-1016, 13 October 2026 (available on request)
- F7. MFA confirmation of the 1995 reburial commission:
<https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/05/linkevicius-answer-2018-06-img-626083531-0001.pdf>
- F8. 1995 press report (Tėviškės žiburiai, 11 July 1995):
https://www.spauda.org/teviskes_ziburiai/archive/1995/1995-07-11-TEVISKES-ZIBURIAI.pdf
- F9. Vilnius decision renaming the alley (2019): <https://vilnius.lt/naujienos/del-trispalves-vardo-suteikimo-alejai-ir-jos-ribu>

- F10. Finnish diplomatic reports, 23 September 1994 and 16 March 1995: <https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/09/5C-VIL0329.pdf> ; <https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/09/5C-VIL0096.pdf>

G — International Commission

- G1. About the Commission: <https://www.komisija.lt/en/about-commission/>
- G2. Membership: <https://www.komisija.lt/en/about-commission/members-of-the-commission-actual/>
- G3. Public statement of 8 April 2019: <https://www.komisija.lt/en/the-public-statement-of-the-international-commission/>

H — Prior public argument and notice (not offered as proof of history)

- H1. “The Škirpa Report Cannot Stand” (July 2026): <https://grantgochin.substack.com/p/the-skirpa-report-cannot-stand>
- H2. “Has Lithuania's Revocation Been Revoked?” (18 September 2026): <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/has-lithuanias-revocation-been-revoked/>
- H3. “157 Measures, No Credibility” (3 October 2026): <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/157-measures-no-credibility/>; “157 Measures, No Independent Judge” (Substack, 4 August 2026)
- H4. “The destruction from within” (September 2026): <https://grantgochin.substack.com/p/the-destruction-from-within>
- H5. “Lithuania's False Acquittal”; “Lithuania Inherited Its Alibi From the Occupier”; “Lithuania Had the Schleef File”; “The Ally That Forged America's Verdict”: <https://grantgochin.substack.com/p/lithuanias-false-acquittal> ; <https://grantgochin.substack.com/p/lithuania-inherited-its-alibi-from> ; <https://grantgochin.substack.com/p/lithuania-had-the-schleef-file> ; <https://grantgochin.substack.com/p/the-ally-that-forged-americas-verdict>

B. Originals requested in certified form

- Award decrees, recommendations, award files and register entries for each award (Chancellor of Orders).
- The signed original of 11R-12 and the Centre's file on my 18 September request.
- The complete 2015 assessment, letter 13R-267, the “2017-04-04” text and the working files behind them; the working file behind Report 9R-598.
- The original Ombudsman file No. 4D-2017/1-1558 and LGGRTC letters 55R-21, 14R-51 and 14R-82.
- The original of the MFA letter of 12 May 2026, Ref. (19.2.3)3-2806, and the Centre's information on which it relied.
- The Lübeck judgment of 27 January 1970 (2 Ks 1/68) and the BGH decision 5 StR 631/70; the Oldenburg disposition of 27 April 1970 and the 1947 Spruchgericht record; the 2021 transmission of the Schleef scans to the Lithuanian Embassy in Germany.
- LCVA f. 648, ap. 2, b. 581–582 (including Documents LV, LVIII and LXIV), with verified transcriptions; the Vilnius University Library manuscript referred to in 14R-51.

- LCVA f. 383, ap. 7, b. 2230, l. 5–5a; LCVA f. 648, ap. 1, b. 39, l. 155–157; LCVA f. 648, ap. 2, b. 582, l. 131; the Urbšys letter of 15 August 1939 (cited as MDMMNLL, f. 61, b. 231, l. 7–8).
- The 1973 volume, pp. 165–171, from a library copy.
- The Finnish Foreign Ministry files, with the cover-letter dates.
- The official Lithuanian text of the Paneriai speech of 23 September 2020.
- The current consolidated text of the Law on State Awards and the Government's resolution approving the action plan.

C. Chronology

- 25 Oct 1919 — Cross of Vytis, fifth degree, “už narsumą” (9R-598).
- 7 Feb 1930 — Volunteer Medal presented (9R-598).
- 8 Sep 1935 — Order of Vytautas the Great, third degree, conferred by the President (9R-598).
- 13 Mar 1939 — Škirpa reports to Foreign Minister Urbšys his remark to Rosenberg on Jews and anti-Communist agitation (Jazavita).
- 15 Aug 1939 — Urbšys objects to Škirpa's “openly Nazi rhetoric” in the Berliner Börsen-Zeitung (Jazavita).
- 14 Dec 1939 — Škirpa–Woermann conversation during the Suwałki refugee crisis (Liekis).
- June 1940 — Soviet occupation of Lithuania.
- 17 Nov 1940 — Škirpa lecture on the LAF platform (LCVA f. 648, ap. 2, b. 582, l. 131; Jazavita).
- 19 Mar 1941 — Leaflet in the name of the Lithuanian Information Bureau, Berlin (two versions; Stasiulis).
- 24 Mar 1941 — LAF secret instructions, Document LVIII.
- Spring 1941 — LAF appeal, Document LXIV.
- 22–23 Jun 1941 — German invasion; uprising; Provisional Government proclaimed; Škirpa named Prime Minister but held in Berlin (9R-598).
- 25 Jun 1941 — Draugas report of a Škirpa prohibition on persecuting Jews.
- 4–19 Jul 1941 — Killings at the Seventh Fort, Kaunas (9R-598: 3,027 persons, of whom 3,020 Jews).
- 23 Jul 1941 — Škirpa memorandum distributed in Berlin; Finnish transmittal follows.
- 23 Sep 1941 — Transmission to Finnish envoy Kivimäki.
- 1973 — Škirpa's volume Sukilimas Lietuvos suverenumui atstatyti, including item 18.
- 1975 — INS removes Brazaitis and Šepetyš from the active list (Subcommittee letter of 13 Jan 1975).
- 1979 — Škirpa dies in the United States.
- 8 May 1990 — Supreme Council statement on the genocide of the Jewish people.
- Mar 1995 — President Brazauskas's apology in Israel.
- 16 Jun 1995 — Government-organized reburial of Škirpa at Petrašiūnai.
- 4 Feb 1998 — Vilnius names Kazio Škirpos Alley.

- 25 Sep / Oct 2015 — LGGRTC letter 13R-267 and published Škirpa assessment.
- 2017 — My complaint to the Seimas and the Ombudsman; the Centre's “2017-04-04” text.
- 2 Feb 2018 — Ombudsman Report 4D-2017/1-1558.
- 11 Jul 2018 — LGGRTC letter 14R-51.
- 24 Jul 2019 — Vilnius renames the alley.
- 17 Dec 2019 — LGGRTC Noreika memorandum stating Bub was “visiškai išteisintas”.
- 11 Feb 2020 — LGGRTC letter describing Schleef as acquitted.
- 25 Jun 2024 — Report 9R-598; 26 Aug 2024 — Lithuanian Jewish Community rejects it.
- 21 Jan 2026 — Government approves the 157-measure action plan.
- 12 May 2026 — MFA letter to Rep. Sherman.
- 26 Aug 2026 — Partial correction of LGGRTC page 3058.
- 24 Sep 2026 — Prosecutor declines AP-29927.
- 27 Sep 2026 — My application to the President.
- 2 Oct 2026 — LGGRTC 55R-951; 13 Oct — 55R-1016; 19 Oct — 55R-1093.
- 22 Oct 2026 — LGGRTC 11R-12.

D. Status of exhibits

- Read for this supplement: A1–A2, C1, C5, D2–D3 (cover and excerpt), D8–D9 (relevant passages), E1 (certified Seimas copy with translation), E7, F1–F2, G1–G3; F3 read in its cover description.
- Public locator confirmed; content held as an image scan not machine-read: E2, E4, D5.
- Located but not opened or not read in full for this supplement: A3–A5, D1, D4, D6, D7, E5, E8, E9, F7–F10.
- Not publicly posted or not obtained: E3, E6 (server unreachable), F4, F5, and all items in Section B.
- Translations from Lithuanian, German and Finnish in this supplement are my working translations unless stated otherwise.

Official legal references

Government Resolution No. 33 of 21 January 2026; officially registered 26 January 2026 as TAR 2026-01031 and effective 27 January 2026. ELI:

<https://data.e-tar.lt/eli/valst/nut/tar/2026/1031/op> .

Law on State Awards No. IX-957, official consolidated print-view edition identifier

eaMBILVmdL: [https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/it/legalActPrint?](https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/it/legalActPrint?actualEditionId=eaMBILVmdL&documentId=TAR.F56B1506A5C6)

actualEditionId=eaMBILVmdL&documentId=TAR.F56B1506A5C6 .

Official Ministry of Foreign Affairs contact: J. Tumo-Vaižganto g. 2, LT-01108 Vilnius;

urm@urm.lt; <https://www.urm.lt/ministerija/institucija/kontaktai/155> .

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Arthur Gochin

Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania

[Qualified electronic signature to be applied only after review and authorization]

cc (subject to authorization and verification of current office and addresses): Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Minister Kęstutis Budrys, J. Tumo-Vaižganto g. 2, LT-01108 Vilnius (urm@urm.lt); Head of the Lithuanian Delegation to the IHRA; Ms. Faina Kukliansky, Chair, Lithuanian Jewish Community; Mr. Emanuelis Zingeris, Chair, and Prof. Saulius Sužiedėlis, Chair of the Sub-commission on the Nazi Occupation and the Holocaust, International Commission, and the Commission Secretariat; Prof. Arūnas Streikus, Chair, LGGRTC Council; Ms. Silvia Foti.



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G. Gochin

Los Angeles, 22 October 2026
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GRANT ARTHUR GOCHIN

10900 Winnetka Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311, USA

+1 818-625-6513 | ggochin@gmail.com

Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania

22 October 2026

His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda

President of the Republic of Lithuania

Office of the President, S. Daukanto a. 3, LT-01122 Vilnius

Through the Chancellor of the Lithuanian State Orders and the State Awards Council
and

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, J. Tumo-Vaižganto g. 2, LT-01108
Vilnius (urm@urm.lt)

**APPLICATION TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS: JONAS SEMAŠKA-LIEPA (1907–1947)**

Production of the complete award record; independent historical evaluation; reasoned decision
on the Presidential decrees of 19 May 1998 and 18 November 1998 (SEM-001)

Your Excellency,

I. What this application asks, and what it does not claim

1. By decree of 19 May 1998 the President of the Republic conferred on Jonas Semaška-Liepa, posthumously, the rank of colonel. By decree of 18 November 1998 he conferred on him the Order of the Cross of Vytis, 2nd degree, now the Commander's Grand Cross. On 22 December 1997 Semaška had been recognized as a volunteer soldier (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 1).

2. Lithuania's own published sources record that from August 1941 Semaška served as an officer, and from 25 October 1942 as commander, of a Lithuanian police battalion serving the German occupation in Ukraine. A reference work of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum records that men of that battalion apparently shot 1,000 Jews in Gaisin on 6 November 1942, twelve days after he took command. A biography published by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (LGGRTC) in 2000 presents him instead as a man who, in 1943, asked the German General Commissioner to help a Jewish family.

3. I do not claim that Semaška's personal criminal responsibility has been established, and I do not ask for a predetermined result. I ask for the record on which the 1998 decrees were made, an evaluation of his wartime service by historians independent of the institutions whose publications are in question, and a reasoned decision once that evaluation is complete. This is a request for investigation, not a completed or certified historical study. The sources I have not yet been able

to verify are disclosed in Annex 1; each is a reason for the investigation I request, not a premise of it.

II. What Lithuanian sources already record

4. From August 1941 Semaška served as a company commander in the 4th Security Battalion, renamed the 7th Battalion in February 1942. In spring 1942 (April according to the national encyclopedia; May according to the biography by Rūta Trimonienė) the battalion was sent to the Vinnytsia region of occupied Ukraine. On 25 October 1942 he became its commander. In 1943 he commanded the 13th Battalion on the Eastern Front. ([VLE](#); [Trimonienė](#).)

5. He was promoted to major on 1 July 1944; the national encyclopedia records him as a major of the Nazi German army. Trimonienė records German decorations: the War Merit Cross 2nd Class with Swords (1943), the Iron Cross 2nd Class (1944) and the Wound Badge; a 2008 account gives the Iron Cross as 1st Class ([Bernardinai.lt](#)) (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 2).

6. The national encyclopedia says only that the battalion was sent to the Vinnytsia region "to guard the railway."

III. The 7th Battalion in Gaisin, and the question of command

7. The USHMM Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos records, in its entry for Gaisin (Haisyn), that 230 Jews were shot there on 14 October 1942 and 1,000 Jews on 6 November 1942; that these murders apparently were carried out by Lithuanian policemen of the 7th Lithuanian Police (Schutzmannschaft) Battalion; and that the staff of the battalion's 4th Company, with one platoon, were in Gaisin from April to December 1942 ([Gaisin](#)) (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 3).

8. Arūnas Bubnys's monograph, *Lietuvių policijos batalionai 1941–1945 m.* (LGGRTC, 2017), discusses the 7th Battalion's 1942 service in occupied Ukraine. His footnotes cite Soviet-era interrogation records of Steponkus, Rimka and Šidlovskis and a 1950 Ukrainian MGB communication, which I have specifically requested from LYA. The account must be checked against its original pages and the underlying files; it does not by itself establish Semaška's command over the participants in Gaisin on 6 November 1942. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 4)

9. The Encyclopedia states: "These murders apparently were carried out by Lithuanian policemen of the 7th Lithuanian Police (Schutzmannschaft) Battalion." The killing of 1,000 Jews on 6 November 1942 falls twelve days after Semaška's appointment as commander of that battalion. The biographies record that after his appointment the battalion was moved to the front near Stalingrad; the Encyclopedia places the 4th Company's staff and one platoon in Gaisin until December 1942. Whether the 4th Company was detached, and under whose command it stood on 6 November, is therefore an open question.

10. I do not draw from these dates a conclusion of personal guilt. Neither the date of his appointment nor command of the battalion establishes it. Three questions must be answered

separately, from the documents: (a) whether personnel of the 7th Battalion took part in the killings in Gaisin on 14 October and 6 November 1942; (b) whether, on 6 November 1942, Semaška's appointment had taken effect and he exercised operational authority over the 4th Company or any other personnel involved; and (c) whether the evidence shows that he knew of, ordered, took part in, assisted or failed to prevent the killing. No Lithuanian state publication I have found asks any of them. The national encyclopedia's entry on the police battalions records their part in killing Jews in Lithuania and Belarus and does not mention Ukraine.

11. Lithuania's own archive holds the next evidence. The English finding aid to the Lithuanian Special Archives' KGB investigation and trial files (Fond K), as filmed by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (RG-26.004M), describes several files on men of the 7th Battalion in the Gaisin district in 1942 ([finding aid](#); [catalog](#)). It describes Vytautas-Antanas Kavaliauskas, born 1922, as having joined the battalion in 1942, guarded prisoners of war near Gaisin and personally killed Jews, with "1000 victims, 40 km far from Gaisinas"; sentenced to death in 1949, the sentence confirmed on review in 1960, and rehabilitated in 1990. It describes Aleksandras Dagys, born 1917, as an officer of the battalion who was in the Gaisin district from April to December 1942, guarded prisoners of war and killed Jews; sentenced to death in 1950. It describes further men of the battalion (Leonas Drungys, Pranas Lileikis, Alfonsas Blauzys) as guarding prisoner-of-war camps in the Vinnytsia region in 1942. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 5)

12. The English USHMM finding aid summarizes the Kavaliauskas case as referring to approximately one thousand victims about 40 km from Gaisin. The figure matches the 1,000 Jews recorded by the Encyclopedia as killed in Gaisin on 6 November 1942, but the locations, as summarized, do not match. These may be different events. Neither identity of incidents nor personal involvement by Semaška can be inferred; the original files and their source notes must resolve both questions. I request production of the relevant Soviet records, any independent corroboration, and the rehabilitation decision, with its legal and factual grounds.

IV. The rescue claim

13. So far as I have found, the claim that Semaška tried to rescue Jews originates in Janina Semaškaitė's Priesaika: Jonas Semaška-Liepa ir bendražygiai, a „dokumentinis esė“ published in 2000 by LGGRTC itself. The title page names the Centre as publisher and copyright holder (© Lietuvos gyventojų genocido ir rezistencijos tyrimo centras, 2000; ISBN 9986-757-40-1). Its editor is Danutė Meškauskienė; no historical reviewer is named ([text](#)).

14. The episode is set in 1943, after the battalion's return from the Stalingrad encirclement. Elena Semaškienė's school friend Lėja, who had emigrated to Palestine and returned before the war, is in the ghetto. Semaška says: „Žmonos draugė, žydaite, bandysiu gelbėti. Ji gete.“ He goes to the General Commissioner, Adrian von Renteln, and asks: „Tai dora žydų šeima ir aš prašau jiems padėti.“ Von Renteln dismisses him: „Jūs laisvas!“ His wife says only: „Vargšė Lėja...“ The next day, the book says, he received orders to replace the commander of the 13th Battalion and go to the northern front near Leningrad, and he tells his wife: „Tai baismė už bandymą išgelbėti Lėja.“

(“This is the punishment for trying to save Lėja.”) The book's name index places Lėja at pages 47, 48, 50 and 146 (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 6).

15. As the book itself presents it, the claim is of one unsuccessful request, in 1943, on behalf of one family known to his wife, followed by a transfer the author presents as punishment. That is not a rescue, and it says nothing about Ukraine. The author names her sources only in general terms: surviving witnesses, soldiers' letters, and Semaška's own diary and notebook. The dialogue is reconstructed throughout. The only source the book gives for how the episode ended is family recollection: at page 146 a member of the family writes that his mother told him how his father's efforts to free Lėja from the ghetto ended, and adds: „Lengviausia kaltinti lietuvius netgi dėl to, ko jie negalėjo padaryti“ (“It is easiest to blame Lithuanians even for what they could not do”). In the book itself, the rescue story is offered as an answer to the charge of Lithuanian participation. I have found no independent record of the episode.

16. The same book depicts a scene during the battalion's 1942 service in which its German liaison officer, Vilhelmas Ničė, tells Semaška: „Miegok, jei tik gali, ir nesuk sau galvos dėl Judo palikuonių“ (“Sleep if you can, and don't trouble your head over the descendants of Judas”), and adds: „Tavo laimė, kad aš pats gestapo nemėgstu.“ As written, the passage places a conversation about Jews and the Gestapo inside Semaška's German service in 1942. The book does not say whether it records an actual conversation, an entry in his diary, or the author's reconstruction, and LGGRTC published it without identifying its foundation. I do not treat it as proof of what he knew. If it rests on his diary, the diary must be produced.

17. The punishment the book describes was command of another battalion. The published biographies record that in the same period he was decorated by Germany (the War Merit Cross 2nd Class with Swords in 1943, the Iron Cross in 1944) and promoted to major on 1 July 1944. A German retaliation is hard to reconcile with that sequence, and an evaluation of the narrative must account for it. The battalion he was sent to command, the 13th, is the former 1st Battalion discussed by Arūnas Bubnys as involved in mass murder of Jews in 1941 (A. Bubnys, “Lietuvių policijos 1 (13)-asis batalionas ir žydų žudynės 1941 m.,” *Genocidas ir rezistencija* 2006, No. 2(20), pp. 31–52), before Semaška joined it; nothing here attributes those killings to him. Taken at face value, a request made in 1943 for a friend's family does not answer what a battalion under his command did in Gaisin in 1942. If the episode is substantiated, that should be stated. If it is not, no official account should present Semaška as a rescuer.

V. Two rescue claims, one method

18. The Semaška rescue claim follows a method the same institution has used before. On 27 March 2019 LGGRTC issued a text on Jonas Noreika which, according to the chairs and recent chairs of the expert working groups of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, “suggests that Noreika was an active rescuer of Jews” while being unable to show his direct role in any rescue, about a man who had a key role in the ghettoization and expropriation of the Jews of Šiauliai district in 1941 ([IHRA statement](#)).

19. In December 2019 the Centre went further and stated that Noreika had organized a rescue network, relying on a single 1986 testimony by Father Jonas Borevičius. Lithuanian historians, among them the director of the Lithuanian Institute of History, Alvydas Nikžentaitis, said the Centre had drawn conclusions from one source that it could not support ([LRT, 16 January 2020](#)).

20. The two LGGRTC rescue narratives raise a common question of evidentiary method: why were favorable claims concerning men whose wartime records required searching scrutiny published or advanced without demonstrably equivalent scrutiny of the adverse evidence?

21. For Noreika the adverse record is the Šiauliai ghetto and property orders; for Semaška it is the battalion's presence at Gaisin. In both cases the institution carrying the favorable narrative is LGGRTC.

VI. The strongest case in Semaška's favor

22. The evaluation must state and test the strongest case for Semaška. He was a career officer of the independent Lithuanian army. In 1940, ordered by a Soviet commissar to spy on his regimental commander, he warned the commander instead. He led the 7th Battalion out of the Stalingrad encirclement. After the war he refused to surrender to the Soviets, returned to Lithuania, led the Samogitian Legion and armed resistance, was arrested in April 1946, sentenced to death by a Soviet military tribunal and shot in Vilnius on 21 January 1947; his wife and son were deported to Siberia. A biography credits him with an attempt to save a Jewish woman. No court ever convicted him of a crime against Jews, and I have found no order signed by him for any killing.

23. Each proposition must be tested against the record. His resistance to Soviet occupation and his death at Soviet hands are real and must be stated; they do not answer what his battalion did in 1942. The absence of a signed order does not settle command responsibility. The absence of a conviction reflects the absence of any trial on this question, not a finding. The rescue claim is addressed in Sections IV and V.

VII. The awards, the competent authorities and the legal question

24. Both 1998 acts are decrees of the President. Under Article 84(22) of the Constitution the President confers state awards. The Constitutional Court held on 12 May 2006 that in doing so the President is bound by the duty to perform his office conscientiously and by the principle of responsible governance. The Seimas Petitions Commission, adopting the opinion of the Seimas Legal Department in conclusion No. 250-I-19 of 17 September 2025, stated: „Respublikos Prezidento diskrecija spręsti, ar apdovanoti Lietuvai nusipelnusių asmenį, suponuoja ir jo įgaliojimą panaikinti savo priimtą sprendimą dėl valstybės apdovanojimo skyrimo, jeigu, Respublikos Prezidento vertinimu, atsiranda įstatyme nurodytos aplinkybės, dėl kurių apdovanotasis turi netekti jam skirtą valstybės apdovanojimo.“ ([conclusion](#)). The Seimas adopted Resolution No. XV-466 on that conclusion on 14 October 2025 ([record](#)) (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 7). The conclusion is the reasoning of a parliamentary commission, not a ruling of the Constitutional Court, and I cite it as such. It ties the power to annul to circumstances

specified in law, which is why I rely on it together with Article 18(1) and Article 30 and not in place of them.

25. Article 18(1) of the Law on State Awards No. IX-957 ([e-TAR](#)) provides:

„Jeigu apdovanotųjų veika žemina apdovanotojo vardą, Respublikos Prezidentas gali išbraukti šiuos asmenis iš ordinų kavalierių ar medalių, kitais pasižymėjimo ženklais apdovanotųjų sąrašo.“

26. Article 30 permits withdrawal of the Order of the Cross of Vytis where the awardee is convicted of a serious crime or commits misconduct that disgraces the name of an awardee. The two grounds are independent; a conviction is not a precondition. Article 9(3) empowers the State Awards Council to consider other matters connected with awards and to advise the President.

27. This case differs from my application concerning Kazys Škirpa ([supplement of 22 October 2026](#)), where the awards preceded the conduct. Here the conduct preceded the decrees by fifty-six years. The question is therefore twofold: whether the decisions of 1998 rested on a complete account of Semaška's service in 1941–1943, and, if they did not, whether the record now established is compatible with the Republic continuing to list him among those it honors. The 1998 decrees predate the present Law; I ask the Chancellor to identify the law under which each was made and its current classification.

28. The volunteer-soldier status of 22 December 1997 and the posthumous rank are distinct legal acts from the decoration. If the President is not competent over any of them, I ask that the relevant part be forwarded to the competent authority and that I be told.

29. A decision under Article 18 is not a criminal judgment. I am not a lawyer and do not offer binding advice on Lithuanian law. I ask the competent institutions to determine it.

VIII. The Government's action plan, and a pattern I have been compelled to document

30. By Resolution No. 33 of 21 January 2026 the Government approved an action plan of 157 measures against antisemitism, xenophobia and incitement to hatred, whose third objective is „Holokausto atminties puoselėjimas“ ([annex of measures](#); [ELI](#)). Measure 3.4 reads:

„3.4. Pakeisti teisės aktus, siekiant sukurti veiksmingus viešųjų objektų, kuriais propaguojami totalitariniai, autoritariniai režimai ir jų ideologijos, šalinimo mechanizmus, palengvinti laisvės kovų dalyvio teisinio statuso panaikinimą ar valstybės apdovanojimų atėmimą, kai atsiranda patvirtintų faktų dėl atitinkamų asmenų, turinčių minėtą teisinį statusą, kolaboravimo su okupacinių režimų represinėmis struktūromis ar jų dalyvavimo civilių gyventojų žudynėse ...“

31. The Government has thereby accepted that withdrawal of state awards and of freedom-fight participant status is a legitimate instrument of Holocaust-memory policy, that the existing mechanisms need to be made more effective, and that withdrawal should follow from confirmed

facts. LGGRTC is a participating institution in measure 3.4 and the lead institution in measures 3.1 and 3.27; measure 1.48 treats state awards as an expression of the plan's values.

32. Jonas Semaška holds both a state award and, I understand, the legal status measure 3.4 describes (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 8). The question his case raises, whether a battalion under his command took part in the killing of civilians, is the question the measure names. The President need not wait for the legislation due in 2027; Article 18(1) and Article 30 already exist. I do not contend that the conditions of measure 3.4 are met; they require confirmed facts, and none has yet been confirmed. I contend that the case falls within the class of cases the measure was written for, and that the facts should be sought rather than left unexamined. If they are not sought in a case within the plan's own terms, the plan's commitment on this point cannot be credited.

33. I must add something personal, and I say it with care. It saddens me deeply to meet the same pattern again. In case after case that I have placed before the Office of the President and other institutions of the Republic, including those of Jonas Noreika, Kazys Škirpa, Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis and Antanas Baltūsis-Žvejys, a man whom the documentary record connects to the persecution or murder of Jews is honored as a national hero, and the official account supporting that honor either omits his record or presents it in a form the primary documents contradict. Where an institution has been shown the contrary records and has repeated its account unchanged, the omission can no longer be regarded as inadvertent.

34. I have had to return to the same institutions, year after year, with the same kind of evidence. To my knowledge no state award conferred on any of those men has been withdrawn, and where official accounts have been corrected the corrections have been partial; I ask in Relief 10 for the list of every post-1990 decision under Article 18(1) or Article 30 so that this can be tested. When the same institutions receive documented notice repeatedly and the same honors and accounts remain unchanged, I can reach only one conclusion until the record shows otherwise: the information is known, and there is at present no intention to act on it. That is my assessment, drawn from the record of my submissions and the responses to them. I would welcome evidence that it is wrong.

35. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents a related, but distinct, problem. The documentary examples I have submitted show a repeated disparity in national attribution: Lithuanian rescuers are expressly identified as Lithuanian, while Lithuanian perpetrators are described through less specific categories such as Nazis or collaborators.

36. Among the examples: in the English version of one Paneriai text the word “murdered” („nužudytą“) in the Lithuanian original was dropped. I placed these communications before the Ministry in a correction request and a records request, registered on 21 September 2026 as Nos. 2-15926 and 2-15933 ([records request](#)). On 23 September 2026, two days after registration, the Ministry's Paneriai commemoration again omitted the Lithuanian participants ([analysis](#)) (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 9). My 105 town-by-town applications of 8–18 October 2026 document the same practice in Lithuania's national encyclopedia and municipal texts ([summary](#)).

37. I have notified the Ministry of these differences and requested the underlying drafting and approval records. I regard their repetition as evidence raising a serious question of deliberate historical misrepresentation. My conclusion is that the cumulative pattern may reflect an intention to give foreign audiences a materially misleading impression of Lithuanian participation in the Holocaust.

38. I request that the Ministry test that allegation against its original drafting records, correspondence, approval histories and post-notice decisions rather than merely deny it.

39. The Government's 157-measure plan cannot credibly serve reconciliation if the institutions charged with implementing it continue practices that obscure the historical responsibilities the plan professes to confront. Unless the Government investigates and corrects such practices where established, the plan risks becoming an instrument of misleading international presentation rather than historical reconciliation.

40. I do not prejudge Semaška's case by this history. His case is an early test of measure 3.4.

IX. The President's own words

41. At Paneriai on 23 September 2020 the President said, as the English text published by the Lithuanian Jewish Community records, that the only way to come to terms with history is to tell ourselves the truth, however painful, and that it had been difficult to admit that the country's citizens died at the hands of Lithuanians as well ([LJC](#); the Lithuanian original published by the Office should control). I ask the President to give those words practical effect in this decision.

X. Lithuania's standing, and Soviet records

42. Russian state propaganda portrays Lithuania as a state that honors Holocaust perpetrators. I reject Russian falsification of history on the same principle on which I object to Lithuanian falsification: the evidence determines the answer. Every honor kept without examination hands that narrative material it did not have to earn; an independent evaluation, whatever its outcome, deprives it of that material.

43. Semaška was interrogated, tried and executed by Soviet authorities. Arūnas Bubnys cites Semaška's own statement before a military tribunal on 13 October 1946: LYA f. K-1, ap. 58, b. P-20071, l. 188. I have requested that precise folio. I have not yet inspected it and do not presume what it says about 1942. The original should be tested for coercion, context, consistency and independent corroboration, whether its statements favor or undermine allegations against him.

XI. A single procedure for independent evaluation and decision

44. Independence of the investigation. I have placed before Lithuanian institutions a documented record of LGGRTC's inaccurate characterizations of foreign legal proceedings, correction failures after notice, and adverse administrative transparency findings. In my assessment, this sufficiently discredits LGGRTC as a neutral adjudicator of disputes concerning its own publications. It must disclose its source files and have a fair opportunity to respond, but must not

direct, appoint, edit or veto reviewers. I ask the President, consistently with my Škirpa application, to invite the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania to undertake an independent evaluation, with specialists nominated by Vilnius University Faculty of History and the Lithuanian Institute of History. If the Commission declines, invite the two academic institutions to undertake the assessment directly, and obtain written reasons for any refusal. This is an invitation, not an assertion of presidential authority over autonomous academic bodies.

45. The Chancellor of Orders should certify the award records; the State Awards Council should consider the independent evaluation and advise under the applicable law; and the President should decide each legally distinct honor with written reasons. The reviewers must separately examine the Gaisin evidence, Semaška's actual chain of command, the Lėja narrative, the original diary and the credibility of adverse and favorable accounts.

46. Conflicts must be screened before any review. Dr. Arūnas Bubnys may supply and explain his historical scholarship but should not select reviewers, supervise or adjudicate an evaluation of LGGRTC's work. The same disclosure rule must apply to members of LGGRTC's Council, including Prof. Arūnas Streikus (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 10), and to any scholar employed, funded or affiliated with the Centre during the preceding five years. Such individuals should not author or adjudicate findings about Centre work where a material conflict exists. All participants should disclose family relationships with Semaška and relevant prior publications or commemorative decisions. The same standards apply to all participants.

47. Reviewers must publish a source inventory and methodology, examine favorable and adverse evidence under consistent attribution standards, distinguish Semaška's own conduct from that of the battalion, address the possible detachment of its 4th Company, and state what is proved, disputed or presently unprovable. Soviet interrogation records must be tested for coercion, consistency and independent corroboration, without selectively dismissing favorable or adverse material.

48. Public notice of an open inquiry. Consistently with the President's Paneriai remarks of 23 September 2020 concerning telling historical truth, I request that, once a review has formally commenced, the President announce publicly to the Lithuanian nation that Semaška's honors and the historical basis for them are under review. The announcement should identify the independent reviewers, terms and reporting mechanism while stating clearly that opening an inquiry establishes no guilt. Publish the resulting findings and reasoned decisions, subject to lawful restrictions.

49. A further disclosure is required. Darius Jonas Semaška, a career diplomat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, served as Lithuania's Ambassador to the Netherlands (2012–2017), presented his letters of credence as Ambassador to Germany on 29 August 2017 ([MFA](#)), and presented his letters of credence as Ambassador to Switzerland on 3 September 2024 ([MFA](#)). He is the grandson of Jonas Semaška-Liepa, through his son Alvydas Domininkas Semaška, and has been described as a former chief foreign-policy adviser to the President (not yet verified: Annex 1,

item 11). While serving as an ambassador he published at least one statement in May 2020 defending Jonas Noreika, including the proposition that Noreika had not killed a single Jew. I documented that statement and returned to it in the Times of Israel in 2020, 2021 and 2022 ([May 2020](#); [November 2021](#); [March 2022](#)) (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 12). I documented the presentation of his grandfather as a rescuer in January 2021 and May 2023 ([2021](#); [2023](#)).

50. Descendants are not responsible for their grandfathers, and the family relationship alone establishes no misconduct and disqualifies no one. It must nonetheless be disclosed. I ask the Office and the Ministry to state whether Ambassador Semaška, or any official acting at his request, has had any role in the historical representation or official commemoration of Jonas Semaška-Liepa, including the 1998 decrees, the 2001 burial, the 2024 monument or any communication concerning this application, and to ensure that he has no role in its handling. That is why this application is also addressed to the Ministry.

51. None of this is new to the State. My Times of Israel publications have been public since 2020, and the Journalist Ethics Inspector, in decision SPR-87 of 26 April 2022, treated my Times of Israel blog as public information (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 13) ([my 2026 request for reassessment](#)). The battalion's service in Vinnytsia, the rewriting of Semaška as a rescuer, and an ambassador's public defense of Noreika have therefore been on the public record, under my name, for six years. To my knowledge, no institution has corrected or publicly addressed these three specific points.

XII. Research requests already submitted and an offer of cooperation

52. On 22 October 2026 I initiated nine SEM-001 archival or records requests addressed to seven institutions. They are concrete evidence-procurement steps, not conclusions about Semaška. I invite the Presidency, the independent reviewers and the Ministry to make equivalent requests directly, obtain copies from their own archival holdings, or receive from me the records and replies as they reach me. I am willing to share the full correspondence and source inventory, including evidence that supports Semaška, under the same independent scrutiny as every other source.

53. Bundesarchiv, Ludwigsburg (Germany): searches of investigative holdings and person, unit and place indexes for Jonas Semaška/variants, the 7th and 13th Lithuanian police battalions, German commanders, Vinnytsia operations, witness evidence and prosecutorial dispositions. Status: sent; response pending.

54. State Archive of Vinnytsia Oblast (Ukraine): occupation orders, battalion deployments, guard operations, violence against Jews and other civilians, and postwar investigations, including inventory leads in fond R-1311. Status: sent; response pending.

55. Office of the President (Lithuania): the 1998 decoration and rank decrees, nominations, recommending institutions, award committee records, underlying historical assessments and subsequent review history. This pre-existing records request is separate from the present application. Status: sent; response pending.

56. Lithuanian Central State Archives (LCVA): the 30 November 1942 order at LCVA f. R-1444, ap. 1, b. 20, l. 4, cited in the literature as concerning the Lithuanian police battalions and Semaška's service (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 14). Its date falls within the contested period of battalion command and 4th Company deployment. I asked for the original before drawing any conclusion from the citation. Sent 22 October 2026; response and registration pending.

57. Lithuanian Special Archives (LYA), initial request: specifically cited interrogation records concerning the battalions, as well as file and access information concerning Semaška's own proceedings. Status: sent; response pending.

58. Lithuanian Special Archives (LYA), first supplement: Semaška's military tribunal statement (LYA K-1/58/P-20071, fol. 188), Steponkus testimony, Ukrainian MGB communication, and Rimka and Šidlovskis testimony identified in Bubnys's footnotes. Status: sent; response pending.

59. Lithuanian Special Archives (LYA), second supplement: the underlying files indexed in USHMM collection RG-26.004M on Kavaliauskas, Dagys, Drungys, Lileikis and Blauzys, their company assignments, wartime evidence, decisions and rehabilitation records, and any connection with Semaška's effective command. Status: sent; response pending.

60. LGGRTC: publishing and editorial records for Priesaika, manuscript, diary or notebook sources, scholarly reviews, corrections, and any role in the 1997 status or 1998 nominations. Status: sent; response pending.

61. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM): collection and finding-aid references to German occupation and Lithuanian police battalion documentation. USHMM assigned request No. 222987 and directed the researcher to catalog resources, with many holdings available only in its reading rooms. The relevant RG-26.004M finding aid has been identified. Status: initial response received; substantive original files outstanding.

62. I respectfully propose a cooperative workflow. I hope we can pursue truth and reconciliation together, rather than through another exchange of letters that ends without the records being examined. The Presidency may invite its independent reviewers to request the same archival originals directly, without awaiting my replies. I will make the replies and documents I receive available, whether they favor or undermine the allegations, subject to the archives' conditions and applicable data-protection law. I ask the Presidency to identify a contact to receive them and maintain with the reviewers a shared inventory recording source, custodian, date, provenance, access limitations and outstanding questions. This is an offer of documentary cooperation, not a request that the President control foreign or independent archives.

63. No document that I have not received is presumed to exist or to support either side. My own publications show the history of notice and argument, not independent proof of contested wartime events. I do not yet possess the original award files, relevant battalion commands, Semaška's 1946 tribunal folio or the German investigative files; I ask the competent bodies to obtain and assess them independently.

XIII. The opposition I have met, and a request for an apology

64. For more than a decade I have tried to establish one thing: the truth about the murder of Lithuania's Jews, my family among them. What I have met from institutions of the Republic I can only describe as sustained hostility. The record includes the following.

- In 2018 LGGRTC published a notice about me and insinuated criminal liability on its website (letter 14R-52; page 2969). In 2026 it confirmed that it never referred me to any law-enforcement body (letter 55R-1096 of 20 October 2026). The insinuation has not been withdrawn.
- On 2 February 2018 the Seimas Ombudsman found my complaint against LGGRTC's officials justified, including a failure of transparency and signs of systematic improper handling of requests (Report 4D-2017/1-1558) ([certified Seimas file](#)).
- In my litigation the State argued, and Lithuanian courts accepted, that the question I raised was legally irrelevant ([2020](#)).
- For years the State told foreign legislators that Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis had been “completely exonerated” in the United States. On 12 May 2026 the Foreign Ministry conceded to a member of the U.S. Congress that the formulation was legally imprecise ([letter](#)). On 13 October 2026 LGGRTC refused to correct its own 2018 letters to me repeating it (55R-1016).
- LGGRTC told the public that Ewald Bub had been “completely acquitted.” On 2 October 2026 it conceded that it had never examined the judgment and that the statement is likely not legally correct ([55R-951](#)). On 19 October 2026 it could not say why it had called Hermann Schleef acquitted ([55R-1093](#)).
- On 22 October 2026 LGGRTC confirmed in writing that the Lithuanian Activist Front's revocation of Jewish rights has no legal force and is not the Republic's position ([11R-12](#)), a proposition I had put to the State since 2017.
- In January 2026 the Government itself recognized, in measure 3.4 of its action plan, that the mechanisms for withdrawing state awards from those who took part in killing civilians need to be made effective.

65. The truth is coming out, and it is coming out from the State's own pens: in concessions, admissions and refusals that each confirm what I said years earlier. Each was extracted by persistence, not offered. None was accompanied by any acknowledgment that the person who raised it had been right.

66. I therefore ask the President and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to transmit to the Government my request for a formal apology: for the 2018 public insinuation of criminality, never referred and never withdrawn; for the characterizations of foreign proceedings that I identified as inaccurate and which the State subsequently described as legally imprecise or likely not legally correct; and for the years in which a Lithuanian citizen seeking the truth about the murder of Lithuanian Jews was treated by institutions of his own State as an adversary to be

discredited. I seek no other personal benefit. An apology would cost the Republic nothing and would show that its 157 measures mean what they say.

XIV. National values

67. This is a decision about what the Republic affirms through its honors. Lithuania may honor resistance to Soviet occupation. It cannot credibly do so by declining to ask what an honored officer's battalion did to Jews in 1942.

68. As a citizen of Lithuania I want the truth and the best for Lithuania, and genuine reconciliation between Lithuania and Jews. I offer the documents, locators and correspondence I have assembled, subject to the same scrutiny as every other source. My research and publication will continue whatever the State decides; this application offers nothing in exchange for action.

XV. Relief requested

69. I respectfully request that the President:

1. Register this application and inform me of its registration number, the official responsible and the applicable timetable.
2. Direct the Chancellor of Orders to certify the decrees of 19 May 1998 and 18 November 1998 and supply the decrees, recommendations, nominating institutions, award files, any historical assessment, the record of the body that considered them, their current legal classification and register entries.
3. Forward to the competent authority any part of this application concerning the volunteer-soldier status of 22 December 1997 that lies outside the President's competence, and inform me which body granted it, on what record, and what role, if any, LGGRTC had in that decision or in the 1998 nominations.
4. Refer the matter to the State Awards Council under Article 9(3), with the material identified here and not only LGGRTC's texts.
5. Formally invite the International Commission to undertake an independent examination, with conflict-screened historians nominated by the Vilnius University Faculty of History and Lithuanian Institute of History. If the Commission declines, invite those institutions to conduct the examination directly, and record reasons for any refusal. Resolve the three distinct Gaisin questions, command subordination, the attempted-rescue source and all contrary evidence, without delegating oversight to LGGRTC.
6. Request LGGRTC, the Lithuanian Central State Archives and the Lithuanian Special Archives to make available to the evaluators all holdings on Semaška and the 7th and 13th Battalions, including Semaška's 13 October 1946 statement (LYA f. K-1, ap. 58, b. P-20071, l. 188), the original 30 November 1942 order (LCVA f. R-1444, ap. 1, b. 20, l. 4), and the 1946 Soviet criminal file and any diary or notebook of Semaška's referred to

in Priesaika, and LGGRTC to state the documentary basis and editorial history of any of its publications about him.

7. After the evaluation, decide on each decree under the law in force: annul or strike where the President finds the grounds met, or otherwise state the documentary and legal reasons for retaining it.
 8. If the President considers that he lacks power over any act because of the recipient's death, the date of the decree or another reason, state the legal obstacle and the competent authority.
 9. Transmit the reasoned decision to the Government and invite it to take the outcome into account in implementing measures 3.1, 3.4 and 3.27, including by ensuring that LGGRTC does not evaluate its own work on Semaška.
 10. Provide the dates, numbers and legal bases of all post-1990 decisions applying Article 18(1) or Article 30, so far as possible without disclosing protected personal data.
 11. Request the Lithuanian Special Archives to produce to the evaluators the Fond K files on members of the 7th Battalion identified in paragraph 11, and the competent authority to state the basis of any 1990 rehabilitation of a man the files describe as having killed Jews near Gaisin.
 12. Transmit to the Government my request for a formal apology (paragraph 66).
 13. Once a review formally begins, announce publicly to the Lithuanian nation its scope, reviewers, independence safeguards and process; state expressly that no conclusion of personal wrongdoing has yet been reached; and publish reasoned conclusions and any resulting award decision when available.
 14. Within the lawful procedure, notify me of the decision whether to open an independent review and the responsible institutions, give a reasoned written answer to each ground, identify any withheld documents and the legal basis, and inform me of review routes and deadlines. I request responses to documentary items 1–3 within the applicable 20-working-day period under Article 10(4) of the Law on Public Administration and appropriate forwarding under Article 11(4).
 15. Designate a contact in the Presidential Office to whom I may provide incoming archive replies and documents, subject to lawful access restrictions; invite independent reviewers to request the same files directly; and maintain a shared source list recording provenance and outstanding questions. This does not require the Office to coordinate institutions outside its authority.
70. I respectfully request that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
1. Register this application, inform me of its registration number, and associate it with my requests Nos. 2-15926 and 2-15933.

2. State whether Ambassador Darius Semaška, or any Ministry official at his request, has had any role in the historical representation or official commemoration of Jonas Semaška-Liepa, or in Ministry communications concerning Jonas Noreika, and ensure that he has no role in handling this application.
3. To the extent not already provided under No. 2-15933, provide any existing guidance on how the Ministry's communications identify the nationality of Holocaust perpetrators and of rescuers.
4. Take the President's reasoned decision into account in Lithuania's IHRA strategy under measure 3.12 and in correspondence with foreign legislators, and correct any communication the evaluation shows to be inaccurate.
5. Join in transmitting to the Government my request for a formal apology (paragraph 66).
6. Reply within 20 working days under Article 10(4) of the Law on Public Administration, forwarding any part outside its competence under Article 11(4).

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Arthur Gochin

Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania

Distribution — principal addressees and additional recipients

Principal addressee: President Gitanas Nausėda, through the Chancellor of State Orders and State Awards Council — kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt

Co-addressee: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania — urm@urm.lt

Additional recipient: Prof. Arūnas Streikus, Chair, LGGRTC Council — through LGGRTC (institutional delivery; individual address not asserted)

Additional recipient: Director, Lithuanian Institute of History — istorija@istorija.lt

Additional recipient: Dean, Vilnius University Faculty of History — if@if.vu.lt

Additional recipient: Ambassador Arvydas Daunoravičius, Head of Lithuania's IHRA Delegation — through Ministry of Foreign Affairs (no individual email address independently verified)

Additional recipient: Ms. Faina Kukliansky, Chair, Lithuanian Jewish Community — info@lzb.lt

Additional recipients receive this application for information and possible independent consideration. They are not asked to predetermine findings, and their inclusion does not make them co-applicants.

Annex 1. Sources not yet verified

This application asks the State to investigate. It is not a certified study. In the interest of full disclosure, the following points in it rest on sources I have not yet been able to verify or obtain in original form. None is presumed to support either side.

1. Volunteer-soldier status of 22 December 1997 (para. 1): I have not identified the issuing body or seen the instrument.

2. Iron Cross class (paras. 5, 17; chronology): Trimonienė gives 2nd Class (1944); a 2008 Bernardinai.lt account gives 1st Class. I have not seen a primary award record.
3. USHMM Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, Gaisin entry (paras. 2, 7, 9; Exhibit A3): I have read the entry in its online edition. I have not checked the printed volume and page, the author, or the sources in its footnotes.
4. Bubnys, Lietuvių policijos batalionai 1941–1945 m. (2017) (para. 8; Exhibit A4): I have used its footnote citations to request the underlying LYA files. I have not checked the printed pages, the exact Lithuanian passages, whether he attributes shootings to the 4th Company, or whether he addresses Semaška's command at Gaisin.
5. Fond K files (paras. 11–12): the descriptions come from the USHMM English finding aid to RG-26.004M. I have not recorded the LYA file numbers or the finding-aid page numbers, and I have not seen the original files.
6. Priesaika (paras. 13–17; Exhibit A5): I quote the digitized text. I have not confirmed the print-edition page of each quotation; the book's name index places Lėja at pages 47, 48, 50 and 146.
7. Seimas Resolution No. XV-466 of 14 October 2025 (para. 24): I rely on Petitions Commission conclusion No. 250-I-19 and have not reviewed the operative text of the Resolution.
8. Freedom-fight participant status (para. 32): I have not confirmed that Semaška holds the legal status measure 3.4 describes.
9. Ministry of Foreign Affairs texts (para. 36): the Ministry texts I compared are its own publications, identified in my requests Nos. 2-15926 and 2-15933. They are not attached to this application.
10. Prof. Arūnas Streikus (para. 46): I identified him as chair of the LGGRTC Council in my Škirpa filing. I have not confirmed his current role.
11. Ambassador Darius Jonas Semaška (para. 49): his family relationship to Jonas Semaška-Liepa is confirmed. I have not confirmed the dates of his service as foreign-policy adviser to the President.
12. May 2020 statement on Noreika (para. 49): I documented it in May 2020 by reproducing an image of the post in my Times of Israel article. I have not separately preserved the original post, and I do not know whether he made further posts.
13. Decision SPR-87 of 26 April 2022 (para. 51): my description of how the Journalist Ethics Inspector treated my Times of Israel blog is a summary. The exact wording is in the decision, which the State holds.

14. LCVA f. R-1444, ap. 1, b. 20, l. 4, order of 30 November 1942 (para. 56; Relief 6): I have not confirmed the publication and page that cite it, its issuer, or its subject. I have requested the original.
15. Original records (para. 63): I do not hold the 1998 award files, the battalion's command records, Semaška's 1946 tribunal statement (LYA f. K-1, ap. 58, b. P-20071, l. 188), the German investigative files, or the Fond K originals. Nine requests were submitted; eight await an initial response, while USHMM has replied but the underlying records remain outstanding (paras. 52–61).

Exhibits with public locators

- A1. Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija, [Jonas Semaška](#).
- A2. Rūta Trimonienė, [Jonas Semaška-Liepa, Rikis](#).
- A3. USHMM, Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, [Gaisin](#) (Annex 1, item 3).
- A4a. A. Bubnys, “Lietuvių policijos 1 (13)-asis batalionas ir žydų žudynės 1941 m.,” *Genocidas ir rezistencija* 2006, No. 2(20), pp. 31–52.
- A4. A. Bubnys, *Lietuvių policijos batalionai 1941–1945 m.* (LGGRTC, 2017) (Annex 1, item 4).
- A5. J. Semaškaitė, *Priesaika* (Vilnius: LGGRTC, 2000; ISBN 9986-757-40-1): [HTML text](#); [PDF](#) (Annex 1, item 6).
- A6. Bernardinai.lt, [2008 article on the Lithuanian battalions](#).
- A7. Alkas.lt, [2024 Plateliai monument](#).
- A8. IHRA expert-group chairs, [statement on LGGRTC's Noreika text of 27 March 2019](#).
- A9. LRT, [Lithuanian officer in Holocaust controversy saved Jews? Does evidence stack up](#), 16 January 2020.
- A10. USHMM RG-26.004M, [catalog record](#) and [English finding aid](#) (Lithuanian Special Archives, Fond K).
- B1. Seimas Petitions Commission, [conclusion No. 250-I-19](#); Seimas Resolution [XV-466](#), 14 October 2025.
- B2. [Law on State Awards No. IX-957](#).
- C1. Action plan, [annex of measures](#); [consultation table](#); [ELI](#); [LRT report](#).
- C2. Paneriai speech, 23 September 2020, [LJC English text](#).
- C3. Škirpa [supplemental application](#), 22 October 2026.
- D1. MFA, Ambassador Darius Semaška: [credentials, Germany \(2017\)](#); [credentials, Switzerland](#).
- D2. My MFA [records request No. 2-15933](#); [Lithuania's MFA Mourns Jews, Omits the Shooters](#); [The Germans Called Them Lithuanians](#) (notice, not proof).
- D3. My Times of Israel articles on Ambassador Semaška (notice, not proof): [2020](#); [Jan 2021](#); [Nov 2021](#); [2022](#); [2023](#).
- E1. Seimas HRC [certified file S-2026-4031](#); MFA [letter to Rep. Sherman](#); LGGRTC [55R-951](#); [SPR-87 reassessment request](#).

- G1–G3. International Commission: [about](#); [members](#); [statement of 8 April 2019](#).
- H1. Prior public argument (notice, not proof): [Beverly Hills insists on the truth about Nazis](#) (2020); [157 Measures, No Credibility](#) (2026).

Originals requested in certified form

- Decrees of 19 May 1998 and 18 November 1998, nominations, award files, Council or commission records and register entries (Chancellor of Orders).
- The 22 December 1997 volunteer-soldier status decision and its file.
- The 1946 Soviet criminal case file against Jonas Semaška (Lithuanian Special Archives).
- Records of the 4th/7th and 13th Battalions, 1941–1943 (Lithuanian Central State Archives).
- Bundesarchiv B 162 files concerning Schutzmannschaft-Bataillon 7.
- Lithuanian Special Archives, Fond K files on Vytautas-Antanas Kavaliauskas, Aleksandras Dagys, Leonas Drungys, Pranas Lileikis and Alfonsas Blauzys, and the record of any 1990 rehabilitation of Kavaliauskas.
- Journalist Ethics Inspector decision SPR-87 (26 April 2022).
- The editorial file of Priesaika (editor Danutė Meškauskienė), the manuscript, any source checks and any historical review of it.

Chronology

- Aug 1941 — company commander, 4th Security Battalion.
- 15 Feb 1942 — renamed 7th Battalion.
- Apr/May 1942 — battalion sent to the Vinnytsia region.
- 14 Oct 1942 — 230 Jews shot in Gaisin (USHMM).
- 25 Oct 1942 — Semaška becomes battalion commander.
- 6 Nov 1942 — 1,000 Jews shot in Gaisin (USHMM).
- Apr–Dec 1942 — 4th Company staff and one platoon in Gaisin (USHMM).
- 1942 — Priesaika's Ničė scene (“descendants of Judas”).
- 1943 — commander, 13th Battalion; War Merit Cross 2nd Class with Swords.
- 1943 — Priesaika's von Renteln episode, followed in the book by orders to command the 13th Battalion, presented as punishment.
- 1 Jul 1944 — promoted to major; Iron Cross (class disputed: Annex 1, item 2).
- 15 Apr 1946 — arrested; 13 Oct 1946 sentenced to death; 21 Jan 1947 shot.
- 1949–1950 — Soviet death sentences on Kavaliauskas and Dagys (Fond K finding aid).
- 1990 — Kavaliauskas rehabilitated (Fond K finding aid).
- 20 Nov 1997 — remains identified at Tuskulėnai; 22 Dec 1997 volunteer-soldier status.
- 19 May 1998 — colonel by Presidential decree; 18 Nov 1998 — Cross of Vytis, 2nd degree.
- 2000 — Priesaika published by LGGRTC; 29 Sep 2001 — burial at Petrašiūnai.
- 29 Aug 2017 — Darius Semaška presents credentials as Ambassador to Germany.
- 27 Mar 2019 — LGGRTC Noreika text; Dec 2019 — LGGRTC Noreika rescue-network claim.
- May 2020 — Ambassador Semaška's public statement defending Noreika.

- 2024 — monument near Lake Plateliai.
- 21 Jan 2026 — Government action plan, including measure 3.4.
- 21 Sep 2026 — MFA registers requests 2-15926 and 2-15933; 23 Sep 2026 — MFA Paneriai text again omits Lithuanian participants.
- 22 Oct 2026 — SEM-001 requests sent (nine requests, seven institutions); USHMM registers No. 222987.



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G. Gochin

Los Angeles, 22 October 2026
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GRANT ARTHUR GOCHIN

10900 Winnetka Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311, USA | +1 818-625-6513 | ggochin@gmail.com

Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania | 22 October 2026

His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lithuania

Office of the President, S. Daukanto a. 3, LT-01122 Vilnius · kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt

Through the Chancellor of State Orders and State Awards Council

Co-addressee: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

SUPPLEMENT TO 27 SEPTEMBER 2026 APPLICATION: ANTANAS BALTŪSIS-ŽVEJYS (1915–1948)

Review and withdrawal of state honors and posthumous rank; institutional explanation, correction and apology concerning LGGRTC’s 2015 LRT statements

Your Excellency,

I. Procedural basis and honors decision

1. This is a supplement to my signed application of 27 September 2026 concerning Baltūsis-Žvejys’s state honors and posthumous colonel rank, sent to the Presidency and copied to the Ministry of National Defence. The Ministry registered its copy on 28 September 2026 as No. 1-321 (as written in the Ministry’s acknowledgment of 29 September 2026). I ask the Presidential Office to identify its existing docket and associate this supplement with that file. My separate request to LGGRTC concerning volunteer-soldier status was registered as No. 7R-1208 on 28 September 2026. The separate commemorative-entry track (registrations Nos. 7R-1207 and 7R-1209) must likewise remain distinct.
2. The published record contains a material unresolved rank-date discrepancy: the [national encyclopedia](#) describes Baltūsis as “Pulkininkas (1997, po mirties)” (colonel, 1997, posthumously), while published accounts identify Presidential Decree No. 1965 of 31 October 2002, reportedly on the Defence Minister’s proposal. These may concern different acts, a confirmation or an erroneous account. I ask the Chancellor to certify EVERY act conferring, confirming or changing the posthumous rank, with dates, numbers, proponents, original nomination and supporting historical assessments. Separately identify the December 1997 volunteer-soldier status instrument, any state decorations and any subsequent review or withdrawal. No claim of a second conferral is made until both instruments are produced.
3. I ask the President to open or continue an independent, legally competent examination of the posthumous colonel’s rank under whichever act or acts conferred or confirmed it, and any verified Presidential awards, to obtain advice from the State Awards Council as appropriate, and after a source-based review to withdraw or annul any honor for which the applicable law and established facts justify that result. If a particular honor cannot lawfully be withdrawn, I request a decision explaining the limitation and any competent alternative remedy. This is a request for investigation, not a completed or certified historical study. The unresolved primary evidence is identified below; no personal criminal responsibility is presumed.

II. The historical question requires an answer

4. Some published studies place Baltūsis with the 252nd Lithuanian Police Battalion in 1942 and record his later command of a company associated with operations in the Lublin district, including the Majdanek camp-guard context. The records must identify his precise appointment dates, individual company, physical location, operational and German command lines, camp perimeter duty, prisoner escorts and any acts or knowledge attributable to him. Do not infer participation in gas-chamber operations, shootings or the November 1943 Erntefest killings merely from the battalion's presence. Equally, a description of "external security" cannot by itself resolve the historical or moral significance of guarding a Nazi concentration camp.

5. The [national encyclopedia](#) records that in June 1941 Baltūsis was appointed police chief of Pilviškiai volost and that, after a few weeks, the Germans arrested him for criticizing the persecution of Jews. This is an important favorable claim and a period requiring independent source examination. Obtain police appointment and duty records, records of anti-Jewish measures in Pilviškiai during June–August 1941, the alleged arrest and release records, and relevant eyewitness testimony. His anti-Soviet resistance and any genuine criticism of persecution must be assessed fairly. [Stoliarovas \(2008, p. 287\)](#) places Baltūsis with 36 men on a 20 May–20 June 1942 Alytus County battalion operation, contradicting [VLE](#)'s statement that he joined the battalion in 1943. The nature of that operation, its original orders and commendation, and whether he later served at Majdanek require independent verification. The 1942 episode precedes the battalion's reported December 1942 Lublin deployment; it proves nothing by itself about his Majdanek duties.

III. The 2012–2015 LGGRTC record and the public harm

6. The 11 January 2015 [LRT Savaitė](#) broadcast, published online on 12 January, quoted then LGGRTC Director General Birutė Burauskaitė describing the Lithuanian battalion's Majdanek role as external security. Her phrase "Čia viskas yra pasakos ir pritempimas" ("These are all tales and stretching") concerned the further allegation that Lithuanian guards escorted prisoners to gas chambers. It did NOT deny that the battalion guarded Majdanek. The full recording, contemporaneous article and the exact preceding question must govern any correction.

7. In my assessment this dismissive description was profoundly offensive to survivors, their families and the wider public. A government historical-research institution was presented with an allegation involving guards at a Nazi concentration and extermination camp, yet its Director characterized a specific serious claim as a tale without setting out the documentary basis on air. Such public certainty was misleading if the evidence was disputed or incomplete. Whether the Director knew of contrary sources or deliberately concealed them is an evidentiary question—not a fact I ask the President to assume.

8. [Pocius \(2022\)](#) records that, on 25 July 2012, LGGRTC wrote to the Lithuanian Jewish Community that archival information existed concerning the participation of both Baltūsis and Juozas Krikštaponis in the Holocaust. [Stoliarovas's 2008](#) battalion study already provided a further published discussion of the camp-guard allegations and testimony concerning duties near gas chambers. In the same [2015 broadcast](#) Burauskaitė acknowledged that earlier resistance statuses had been issued hastily without adequate examination of wartime service under the Nazis and characterized the

Krikštaponis case as exceptional. The Centre must state which of these positions it stands by, and on what documents. I ask which documents were before the Centre in 2012 and in 2015 and what factual basis supported her categorical public dismissal.

9. This problem is systemic, not a substitute for proof against Baltūsis. Historian Mindaugas [Pocius](#) [concluded](#) in 2021 and in a 2022 study published in the Centre's own journal that partisan biographies had not adequately been researched before recognitions were granted and that the resulting historical-policy errors required correction. The 2012 Centre response named more than one commander. Lithuania has also previously withdrawn a posthumous Cross of Vytis: the presidential annulment of Pranas Končius's decoration in 2015. This demonstrates that a remedy can exist, but the legal and evidentiary conditions must be applied separately to Baltūsis. The pattern warrants independent review; it cannot establish his guilt. My own submissions regarding Semaška-Liepa, Škirpa, Pucevičius-Radvila and the documented Krikštaponis record raise comparable screening questions; those filings demonstrate the need for systematic review, not individual guilt in Baltūsis's case.

IV. President to transmit a demand for LGGRTC public correction and apology

10. Under the Lithuanian Seimas [Resolution No. XIV-2987](#) of 26 September 2024, which approved LGGRTC's governing regulations, the Centre is governed under a Seimas-approved framework. The Seimas also appoints its Director General. I therefore ask the President to transmit this request, with his express recommendation for a substantive institutional response, to the Seimas Speaker, the Seimas Commission for Freedom Fights and State Historical Memory, the LGGRTC Director General and the LGGRTC Council. I request action by the legally competent body; I do not assert that the President can dictate LGGRTC's conclusions or LRT's broadcasts.

11. I request that LGGRTC publicly identify the archival materials underpinning its 2012 acknowledgment and the sources on which Burauskaitė relied in 2015; explain the distinction between general battalion guarding, escorts and the duties of Baltūsis's actual company; identify any correction since 2015; and state exactly which allegations it accepts, rejects or cannot presently verify. If it cannot substantiate the public dismissal, it should withdraw that dismissal, acknowledge its harm and apologize to the victims' families and the public. An institutional apology must not pretend that unproved personal acts have been established.

12. I further ask the President to urge LGGRTC to request an opportunity on LRT's Savaitė or a comparably prominent LRT news or current-affairs program to present its explanation, correction and apology. LGGRTC should publish that request and the full text of its response. LRT's independent editors decide whether to offer airtime; this application does not demand that the President dictate broadcast content. If LRT declines, LGGRTC should publish the correction and apology prominently on its own website and offer the same text to LRT for voluntary coverage.

13. If the President declines to support or transmit this request, I ask for a point-by-point written answer: whether he considers Burauskaitė's wording historically supportable or requiring inquiry; whether he disputes the need for institutional explanation; which legal limit prevents his involvement; which Seimas or LGGRTC office is competent; whether he transmitted this request to that office; and

why the President's office would decline to seek public correction voluntarily. A refusal based solely on LRT editorial independence would not answer the distinct request for LGGRTC accountability.

V. Independent procedure and requested disposition

14. I request the Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania be formally invited to assess the evidence, with conflict-screened specialists nominated by Vilnius University Faculty of History and the Lithuanian Institute of History. If the Commission declines, invite those academic institutions directly. LGGRTC should supply its source files and have an opportunity to reply, but should not determine the reliability of its own previous claims. Participants must disclose material conflicts and relevant previous positions; the inquiry must state favorable and adverse evidence and preserve disagreements.

15. Please: (a) acknowledge and register this supplement in the September 27 Presidential file; (b) authenticate every 1997/2002 decision, its proposing authority and applicable legal basis; (c) preserve and obtain the 2012 LGGRTC letter, 2015 LRT recording and preparation records, 252nd Battalion files and all identified original folios; (d) transmit the institutional correction-and-apology request to the Seimas and LGGRTC and request direct answers; (e) request a voluntary LRT appearance for LGGRTC's explanation; (f) commission independent historical assessment and seek State Awards Council advice; (g) decide each honor separately with reasons, including withdrawal where law and facts warrant; (h) publish the terms of a formally opened inquiry, expressly without presuming guilt, and eventually its findings; and (i) state any legal bar, alternative competent body, review route and response deadline.

16. Please coordinate receipt of evidence with the Ministry of National Defence (reg. I-321), LGGRTC (reg. 7R-1208) and the Presidency's existing docket, without reopening settled procedural questions or duplicating the same record request. Records first received in a related honors-record request, including HRS-002 or HRS-003 if applicable, should be cross-referenced here by date and registration number. I request a reasoned response within 20 working days under Article 10(4) of the Law on Public Administration; if another period or an extension applies, state its legal basis. I am not a lawyer and offer this statutory analysis for administrative review, not as binding advice. This English-language supplement is signed with a qualified electronic signature and submitted as a single document.

Respectfully submitted,
Grant Arthur Gochin
Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania

Annex 1 — Matters requiring original verification

1. The VLE rank date (posthumous colonel, 1997) and claimed Presidential Decree No. 1965 of 31 October 2002: certified copies and complete legal history of each rank act, nomination, proposing body, and any separate state award; volunteer-soldier status instrument of 1997.

2. Complete 11 January 2015 Savaitė recording and LRT 12 January online publication; exact statements and editorial context.

3. Original LGGRTC 25 July 2012 letter to the Lithuanian Jewish Community, its signatory, annexes and archival basis.
4. Stoliarovas (2008, especially p. 287), Bubnys (2000/2017), Pocius (2022), and Trimonienė: relevant printed passages, archival citations, original records of the May–June 1942 Alytus assignment and the claimed duties near gas chambers.
5. LYA f. K-1, ap. 58, b. 22380/3, fols. 10–11; LCVA wartime battalion records, duty rosters, German police chain and the 1942 Alytus operational records. Obtain Pilviškiai volost police records from June–August 1941, arrest and release records, orders and any testimony regarding anti-Jewish measures.
6. 27 September 2026 Presidential registration, any answer or decision; LGGRTC no. 7R-1208 and MoD no. I-321; any other existing related records requests.

Public source locators

LRT Savaitė (original online report) <https://www.lrt.lt/naujienos/lietuvoje/2/89410/ar-galejo-prezidento-a-smetonos-sunenai-dalyvauti-zydu-zudynese-video>

Pocius study (2022) <https://www.zurnalai.vu.lt/gr/article/view/34886/33227>

Stoliarovas study (2008) <https://portalcris.vdu.lt/server/api/core/bitstreams/d99e2123-4c60-43d5-aa7c-932cc6bae9c7/content>

LGGRTC governing regulations (Seimas 2024)
<https://e-tar.lt/rs/legalact/608ec1607bff11efabdbb4a1fc8b0b63/>

LGGRTC institutional governance history <https://www.genocid.lt/centras/lt/823/c/>

VLE: Antanas Baltūsis <https://www.vle.lt/straipsnis/antanas-baltusis/>

Applicant's Baltūsis research (notice and leads) <https://grantgochin.substack.com/p/lithuania-made-a-majdanek-company>

Applicant's textual comparison (notice and leads) <https://grantgochin.substack.com/p/lithuania-vs-lithuania>

Prior published articles establish notice and identify sources; they are not independent corroboration of historical allegations.

Distribution — President: kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt; **co-addressee MFA:** urm@urm.lt; **copy to the Seimas Speaker and the Commission for Freedom Fights and State Historical Memory through the Seimas Registry,** priim@lrs.lt; **LGGRTC Director General:** centras@genocid.lt; **LGGRTC Council:** taryba@genocid.lt; **Ministry of National Defence:** kam@kam.lt (reg. No. I-321); **Lithuanian Institute of History:** istorija@istorija.lt; **Vilnius University Faculty of History:** if@if.vu.lt; **Lithuanian Jewish Community:** info@lzb.lt; **Head of Lithuania's IHRA Delegation, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (individual email not asserted).** Other recipients receive this for information and independent institutional consideration, not as co-applicants.



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G. Gochin

Los Angeles, 22 October 2026
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GRANT ARTHUR GOCHIN

10900 Winnetka Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311, USA
+1 818-625-6513 · ggochin@gmail.com

22 October 2026

Reference: SLU-PRES-001

His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda
President of the Republic of Lithuania
Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania
S. Daukanto a. 3, LT-01122 Vilnius
kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt

APPLICATION FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE STATE HONORS OF ANTANAS SLUČKA-ŠARŪNAS (1917–1949), AND FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL IF HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE HOLOCAUST IS CONFIRMED

Mr. President,

I am a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania. Members of my family were murdered in Lithuania in 1941. I have researched the Holocaust in Lithuania for many years, and I submit this application in that capacity and as a citizen.

I suspect that Antanas Slučka-Šarūnas may have been a perpetrator of the Holocaust in Lithuania in 1941–1942. I do not state that this is proven. The documents and sources set out below give specific grounds for the suspicion, and they identify the records that can confirm or dispel it. If his participation in the persecution or murder of Jews is confirmed, the State honors conferred on him should be withdrawn.

1. Requests

- (a) Open an investigation into whether Antanas Slučka (son of Pranciškus; born April 1917, Troškūnai; killed 28 October 1949) took part in the detention, guarding, forced labour, transport or murder of Jews, or in the handling of their property, in 1941–1944.
- (b) Obtain, through the Office of the President and the competent State institutions, the records listed in Part 7, and assess them as part of the investigation. I request copies of the records released, to the extent the law permits.
- (c) Obtain from the Office's own files the decrees of 19 May 1998 and their nomination files, and establish whether his conduct in 1941–1944 was examined before the honors were conferred.
- (d) If his participation is confirmed: withdraw the Order of the Cross of Vytis and revoke the posthumous rank of colonel, and refer the volunteer-soldier status of 22 December 1997 to the body competent to revoke it.
- (e) Reply to me in writing with the decision taken on each request and its reasons, within the time limits set by the Law on Public Administration.

2. Honors and public recognitions under review

- **Order of the Cross of Vytis, 1st class (now Grand Cross), posthumous:** presidential decree of 19 May 1998. Decree number, proposer and the advice of the awards body are not known to me.
- **Rank of colonel, posthumous:** decree of 19 May 1998. The proposing institution is not known to me.
- **Volunteer-soldier (kario savanorio) status, posthumous:** 22 December 1997. The issuing body is not known to me.
- **Source note:** the Universal Lithuanian Encyclopedia (VLE) gives the years 1997 and 1998. The exact dates come from G. Vaičiūnas and D. Žygelis, "Aukštaitijos partizanų vadas Antanas Slučka-Šarūnas," Karys, 2017, No. 4, pp. 44–53. The instruments themselves should be checked.
- **Public commemorations:** memorial stone and cross at the death site, Butkiškis near Andrioniškis (1990); the bunker site in the Register of Cultural Property (unique code 17259); a Genocide and Resistance Research Centre (LGGRTC) information stand at the bunker and a 2014 archaeological excavation commissioned by the Centre; an LGGRTC plaque on the Troškūnai monastery wall; a 2019 monument in Andrioniškis naming him "laisvės kovų karžygys"; a 2026 museum exhibition in Anykščiai.
- **Date pattern:** Jonas Semaška-Liepa, the subject of my application SEM-001, received volunteer-soldier status on 22 December 1997 and the rank of colonel on 19 May 1998, the same dates. I ask whether the 1998 decrees were one act or several, and what each nomination file shows was reviewed. Identical dates are not evidence of any defect.

3. Identity and service record from favorable sources

- VLE, Karys 2017, the Anykštėnų biografijų žinynas and partizantai.org give the following. Birth date: 14 April 1917 (VLE) or 19 April 1917 (the other sources). Lithuanian Army from 1935 or 1937, 5th Infantry Regiment, sergeant-major. Retained in the Red Army territorial corps 1940–1941; escaped in June 1941.
- June to September 1941: these biographies say nothing about this period.
- From 21 September 1941 to spring 1942: Karys 2017 states that he "entered military service in self-defense units" (savisaugos daliniai) and was appointed to construction and repair of the Joniškėlis–Joniškis railway section. The Anykštėnai reference work states that he was appointed chief of a former Soviet prisoner-of-war labour camp at the Joniškėlis–Joniškis railway construction. Partizantai.org describes him as commandant of the narrow-gauge railway.
- 1942–1944: volost board secretary in Troškūnai (Anykštėnai; A. Giraitis, Troškūnų istorija) and medical studies (Vilnius per Karys; Kaunas per Anykštėnai). These accounts conflict for 1942–1943.
- 1944: lieutenant in the Lithuanian Territorial Defence Force; wounded in an exchange of fire with German troops when the force was disbanded. From late 1944: commander in the anti-Soviet armed resistance, later commander of the Karaliaus Mindaugas region. Killed 28 October 1949 when MGB troops surrounded his bunker.

- Troškūnai had at least two Slučka families (A. Giraitis). Identity with the persons named in the documents below must be established from records containing a birth date, a father's name, a residence or a signature.

4. Grounds for the suspicion

4.1 *Troškūnai, July–August 1941*

- A. Giraitis, *Troškūnų istorija*, writes that Vladas Parojus commanded the Troškūnai activists' self-defense unit formed in summer 1941, and that "Jam padėjo A. Slučka, Jonas Stanevičius, Mamaniškis, Donelavičius, Žeimys, vargonininkas Juozas Rudėnas, Antanas Lupeikis" ("He was helped by A. Slučka, ...").
- The same work states that on 10 July 1941 Parojus shot 10 Jewish prisoners in the unit's headquarters in the school building, citing Lithuanian Special Archives (former LVOA) f. 3377, ap. 55, b. 154, l. 65–66. I have not seen that file.
- Survivor testimony relayed from local residents (Konkurovich, published 1984; Krakinowski, recorded 1993) describes about 15 Jews killed by local Lithuanians at the old Jewish cemetery in July 1941.
- On 21–22 August 1941 the remaining Jews of Troškūnai, about 200 people, were taken under armed Lithuanian guard to Pajuostis near Panevėžys, where they were murdered on 23 August 1941 (JewishGen Yizkor and Cemetery Project; Giraitis).
- Limits: the Giraitis sentence gives an initial only, no date range and no function, and no archival source is attached to it. No source I have located attributes a personal act in these events to him. Membership of the unit, if proven, would not by itself prove participation in a killing. These are the questions the investigation should answer from the records.

4.2 *Joniškėlis–Žeimelis railway works, September–November 1941*

The following documents are in the Lithuanian Central State Archives (LCVA), fond R-1099 (Šiauliai County Chief), inventory 1, file 2. I have read them from scans, reproduced in the Annex. Certified copies are requested in Part 7.

- **Folio 338 (22 September 1941):** letter of the Transport Directorate, Narrow-Gauge Railways, Gubernija depot, to the Šiauliai City and County Chief (received No. 2507): "Prašau Tamstos patvarkymo išrūpinti ginklus žemiau išvardintiems asmenims, kurie pildys sargybos pareigas prie atleistų žmonių Joniškėlio–Žeimelio geležinkelio darbams" ("I ask for your order to obtain weapons for the persons listed below, who will perform guard duties over the released people for the Joniškėlis–Žeimelis railway works"). Twenty names follow. No. 20 reads: "Slučka Antanas – sargybos vadas" ("guard commander").
- **Folio 340 (September 1941, day blank):** the County Chief's office asks the Šiauliai Gebietskommissar for "19 kariškų šautuvų ir vieną pistoletą" (19 military rifles and one pistol) for 20 persons who will guard "atleistų žmonių" at the Žeimelis–Joniškėlis railway construction. Signed by the Secretary.
- **Folio 394 (1 October 1941, No. 2805):** the County Chief's office returns to the Šiauliai City Municipality the certificates of Jews "returned to the Ghetto," under which they had been permitted to work within Šiauliai volost. Annex: 27 certificates. This folio does not mention the railway.

- **Folio 504 (4 November 1941, No. 3506):** the County Chief's office returns to the Šiauliai City Municipality its correspondence "dėl apmokėjimo atlyginimo žydų tautybės darbininkams, dirbusiems prie Joniškėlio geležinkelio" (on payment of wages to workers of Jewish nationality who worked at the Joniškėlis railway), and directs it to the Railways Directorate. Annex: 5 sheets (not seen).

These documents show that, one day after the 21 September 1941 appointment date given by his biographers, a "Slučka Antanas" was listed as commander of twenty armed guards over people held for the Joniškėlis–Žeimelis railway works, and that Jewish workers worked at the Joniškėlis railway that autumn. The identification of the "released people" is the central question. His biographers say they were Soviet prisoners of war; the folios say "released people"; folio 504 shows Jewish workers on the same railway. Whether the people he guarded were Jews from the Šiauliai ghetto, how many there were, how they were treated and what became of them must be established from the records. If they were Soviet prisoners of war, their treatment is a separate ground of inquiry.

The Jews of Žeimelis were murdered on 8 August 1941 and the Jews of Joniškėlis in summer 1941, before the date of folio 338. These documents do not link him to those killings.

4.3 Troškūnai volost office, 1942–1943

- If he was secretary of the Troškūnai volost board in 1942–1943, the investigation should establish whether the board administered or distributed the property of the murdered Jews of Troškūnai, and his role in that work.

4.4 Allegation on record

- On 11 September 2020 A. Grabauskas (Socialist People's Front) sent a statement to the Prosecutor General alleging Slučka's participation in 1941 killings of Jews and Soviet activists and in the deaths of prisoners of war in the camp. The statement cites no document, and its provenance must be tested. I list it so that the investigation can check its specific claims against the archival record, in both directions. I do not rely on it.

5. Matters in his favor

- No source I have located, favorable or adverse, places him at a named killing or attributes a personal act of violence against Jews to him.
- He was wounded in an exchange of fire with German troops in 1944, fought Soviet occupation from 1944, and died refusing surrender in 1949.
- The only documented assignment after 21 September 1941 is the railway works. The nature of his duties there has not been established, and no adverse conclusion should be drawn until it is.

6. Prior notice and corrections to my own record

- On 29 August 2019 I filed a complaint with the LGRTC concerning its 2015 conclusion on Jonas Noreika. Its Annex 33 included the images of folios 338, 340, 394 and 504. Slučka was not a subject of that complaint, but the Centre has held a copy of folio 338, naming "Slučka Antanas – sargybos vadas," since that date.

- In that complaint and in later filings, folio 340 was cited as "l. 440" and folio 394 as "l. 294," with a title linking it to railway labour. The correct folio numbers are 340 and 394, and folio 394 does not mention the railway.
- On 9 November 2022, in the Times of Israel, I wrote: "Antanas Slučka – commander of guards in Zeimelis where many Jews were murdered." The documents support a narrower statement: on 22 September 1941 a "Slučka Antanas" was listed as guard commander at the Joniškėlis–Žeimelis railway works. The Žeimelis killings of 8 August 1941 predate that document. I place this correction before you so that this application rests only on what the records show.

7. Records to be obtained

I ask that the Office obtain or request the following, and that each item be recorded with the description used in the request.

7.1 Office of the President

- The decrees of 19 May 1998 conferring the Cross of Vytis and the rank of colonel: numbers, texts, nomination papers, proposing institution, the advice of the State awards body, and any material on his 1941–1944 service that was considered.

7.2 Ministry of National Defence

- The 1998 proposal file for the posthumous rank of colonel.

7.3 Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (LGGRTC)

- The 22 December 1997 volunteer-soldier status decision and its file, if issued by the Centre or its predecessor; if not, the name of the issuing body.
- The basis for the Troškūnai plaque and the bunker information stand, and the 2014 excavation report.
- Any record of the Centre's handling of folio 338 after 29 August 2019.

7.4 Lithuanian Central State Archives (LCVA)

- Certified copies of f. R-1099, ap. 1, b. 2, l. 338, 340, 394 and 504, both sides; confirmation of folio numbers and dates (the day of l. 340 is blank).
- The 5-sheet annex to l. 504 and the Šiauliai City Municipality letter to which l. 504 replies.
- All other documents in b. 2 on the Joniškėlis–Žeimelis (Joniškis) railway works and their guard, September 1941 to spring 1942, including folio 335 and the Gebietskommissar's reply to l. 340; the internal inventory of b. 2.
- Identification of the fonds of the 1941–1942 Transport Directorate, its Railways Directorate and the Narrow-Gauge Railways Gubernija depot, and from them: guard lists and orders, worker lists, wage sheets, settlements with the Šiauliai City Municipality, and personnel records for Antanas Slučka, including any order of appointment dated on or about 21 September 1941.
- Troškūnai volost board records 1942–1943: personnel records and records on the property of the Jews of Troškūnai.

- University registers for 1942–1944 (Vilnius and Kaunas) recording his enrolment, to resolve the conflicting accounts.

7.5 Šiauliai Regional State Archives

- 1941 records of the Šiauliai City Municipality: its correspondence with the County Chief on wages for Jewish workers at the Joniškėlis railway (the counterpart of l. 504) and on the 27 certificates (l. 394); records of the assignment of Jews from the Šiauliai ghetto to work outside the ghetto, September–December 1941 (worker lists, certificate registers, wage accounts). If the archive does not hold them, the name of the archive that does.

7.6 Lithuanian Special Archives (LYA)

- F. 3377, ap. 55, b. 154, l. 65–66, cited by Giraitis for the 10 July 1941 shooting, with confirmation of its current reference.
- Criminal files of members of the 1941 Troškūnai self-defense unit (Parojus and the persons named with him), and any file on the person named "Zabodskis" in survivor testimony.
- MGB/KGB files on Antanas Slučka, including the agent case "Kanibalai," and the interrogations of Žukauskas-Princas, Kubilius-Rūgštymas and Vildžiūnas-Vijoklis, insofar as they concern 1941–1944. Soviet security records are to be assessed for coercion and corroborated before any weight is given to them.

7.7 Anykščiai District Municipality and the Department of Cultural Heritage

- The approvals for the 2019 Andrioniškis monument, the register entry for the bunker site, and any street-naming decision.

8. Legal basis

- Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 84(22): the President confers State awards.
- Law on State Awards (No. IX-957), including Articles 18(1) and 30, on the deprivation of State awards and its procedure.
- Law on Public Administration, on the examination of applications by persons and the time limits for replies.
- Since President Algirdas Brazauskas's address to the Knesset in 1995, Lithuania's leaders have acknowledged that Lithuanians took part in the Holocaust. An honor conferred by the President expresses the judgment of the State. Where specific documents raise a question of participation in the Holocaust, that question should be examined by the State before the honor continues to stand.

9. Closing

I ask that this application be investigated on the records and decided on the evidence. If the records clear him, I ask to be told so, with reasons. If they confirm his participation in the persecution or murder of Jews, I ask that the honors be withdrawn.

Respectfully,

Grant Arthur Gochin

Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania
Signed with a qualified electronic signature

Annex: Scans of LCVA f. R-1099, ap. 1, b. 2, l. 338, 340, 394 and 504, with transcriptions (from the applicant's records; certified copies requested in Part 7.4).

Annex. LCVA f. R-1099, ap. 1, b. 2 — scans and transcriptions

*Reproduced from the scans filed by the applicant with the LGRTC on 29 August 2019.
Transcriptions and translations by the applicant. Folio numbers are as stamped on the documents.*

A1. Folio 338 — 22 September 1941

338

Sluškevičius Karolis
Siaurųjų Geležinkelų
GUBERNIJOS DEPO
1941 m. IX mėn. 22 d.
Nr. 853
Gubernija

Siaulių Apskritis Viršininkas
GAUTA
1941 IX
Nr. 2502
Priedų.....lap.

Ponui Šiaulių Miesto ir Apskrities
Viršininkui.

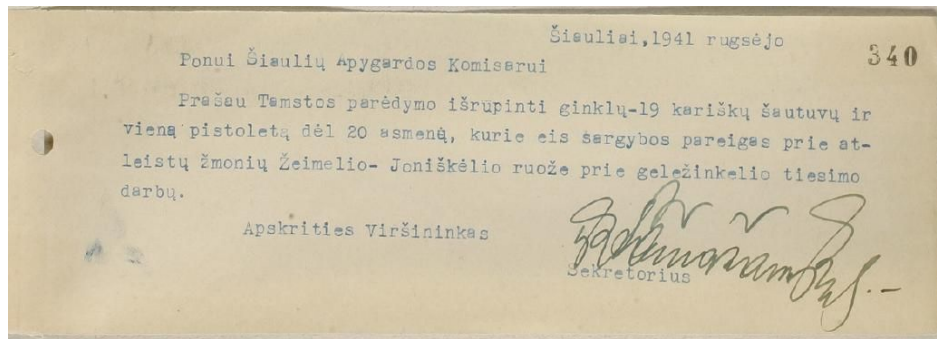
Prašau Tamstos patvarkymo išrūpinti
ginklus žemiau išvardintiems asmenims,
kurie pildys sargybos pareigas prie at-
leistų žmonių Joniškėlio-Žeimelio gele-
žinkelio darbams:

- 1/. Kutas Jonas
- 2/. Šatas Jonas
- 3/. Norvaišas Juozas
- 4/. Žagunis Stasys
- 5/. Mekas Juozas
- 6/. Janusevičius Kazys
- 7/. Skikas Juozas
- 8/. Jurkevičius Petras
- 9/. Aromavičius/Armonavičius Petras
- 10/. Kutkevičius Karolis
- 11/5 Samulis Petras
- 12/. Kaškelis Bronius
- 13/. Biliūnas Antanas
- 14/. Judilas Petras
- 15/. Grite Liudas
- 16/. Bitaitis Antanas
- 17/. Genys Leonas
- 18/. Valušinas Petras
19. Vadapalas Jonas
- 20/. Slučka Antanas - sargybos vadas.

Slučka
Gubernijos depo Viršininkas

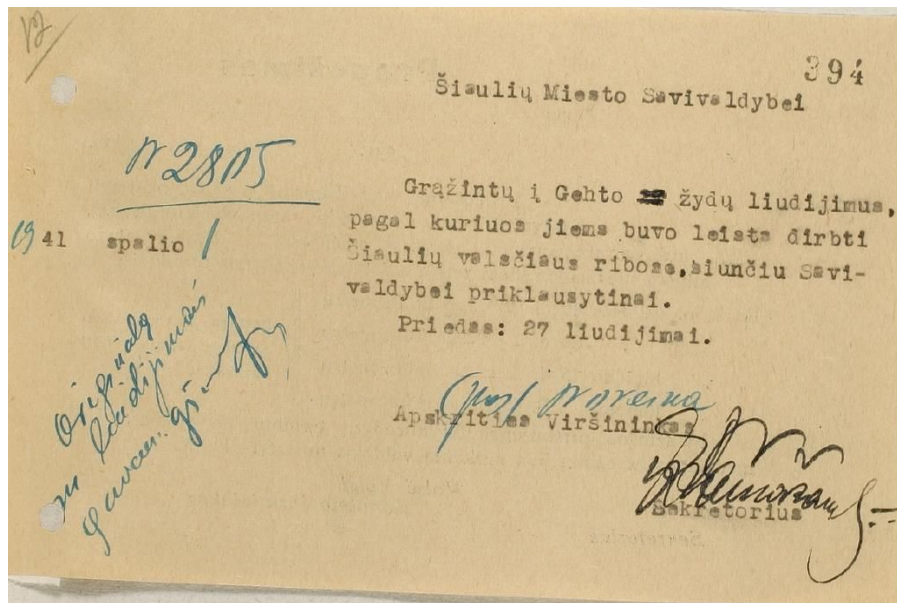
"Prašau Tamstos patvarkymo išrūpinti ginklus žemiau išvardintiems asmenims, kurie pildys sargybos pareigas prie atleistų žmonių Joniškėlio-Žeimelio geležinkelio darbams: ... 20. Slučka Antanas – sargybos vadas." Translation: "I ask for your order to obtain weapons for the persons listed below, who will perform guard duties over the released people for the Joniškėlis-Žeimelis railway works: ... 20. Slučka Antanas – guard commander."

A2. Folio 340 — September 1941 (day blank)

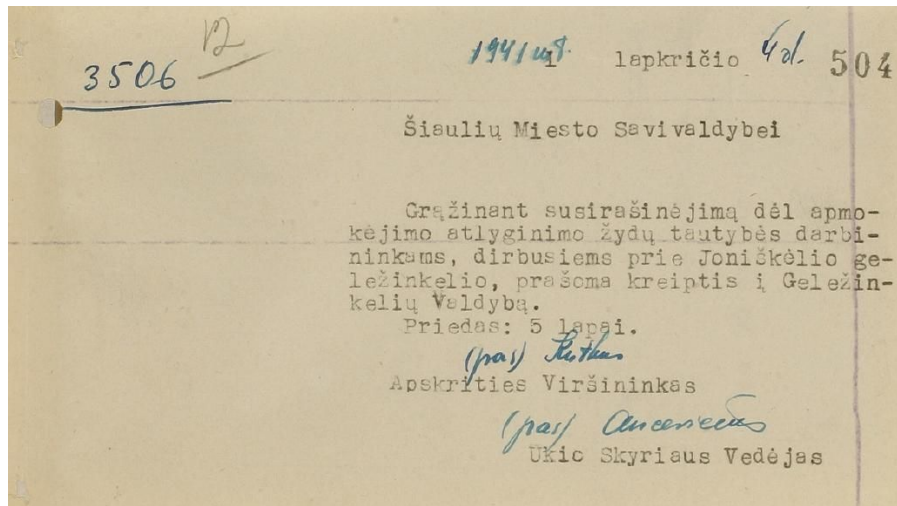


"Ponui Šiaulių Apygardos Komisarui. Prašau Tamstos parėdymo išrūpinti ginklų – 19 kariškų šautuvų ir vieną pistoletą dėl 20 asmenų, kurie eis sargybos pareigas prie atleistų žmonių Žeimelio–Joniškėlio ruože prie geležinkelio tiesimo darbų. Apskritis Viršininkas. Sekretorius [signature]." Translation: "To the Šiauliai Gebietskommissar. I ask for your order to obtain weapons – 19 military rifles and one pistol for 20 persons who will perform guard duties over the released people on the Žeimelis–Joniškėlis section at the railway construction works. County Chief. Secretary [signature]."

A3. Folio 394 — 1 October 1941, No. 2805



"Šiaulių Miesto Savivaldybei. Gražintų į Ghetto žydų liudijimus, pagal kuriuos jiems buvo leista dirbti Šiaulių valsčiaus ribose, siunčiu Savivaldybei priklausytinai. Priedas: 27 liudijimai. (pas.) Noreika, Apskritis Viršininkas. Sekretorius [signature]." Handwritten: "Originalą su liudijimais gavau [signature]." Translation: "To the Šiauliai City Municipality. I send to the Municipality, as appropriate, the certificates of the Jews returned to the Ghetto, under which they had been permitted to work within the limits of Šiauliai volost. Annex: 27 certificates. (signed) Noreika, County Chief. Secretary." Handwritten: "I received the original with the certificates." This is the office's retained copy; "(pas.)" records that the original was signed.



"Šiaulių Miesto Savivaldybei. Grąžinant susirašinėjamą dėl apmokėjimo atlyginimo žydų tautybės darbininkams, dirbusiems prie Joniškėlio geležinkelio, prašoma kreiptis į Geležinkelių Valdybą. Priedas: 5 lapai. (pas.) [signature] Apskrities Viršininkas. (pas.) [signature] Ūkio Skyriaus Vedėjas." Translation: "To the Šiauliai City Municipality. Returning the correspondence on payment of wages to workers of Jewish nationality who worked at the Joniškėlis railway, you are asked to apply to the Railways Directorate. Annex: 5 sheets. (signed) County Chief. (signed) Head of the Economic Department."



This document is signed with eSGN

To check its signatures, open this PDF using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

For more information, visit the Adobe Acrobat's Learn & Support section.



Signature Types

-  Signed by a natural person
-  Signed by a natural person with a registered profession
-  Signed by a legal person or registered organisation

Levels of Electronic Signature

-  Simple Electronic Signature
-  Advanced Electronic Signature
-  Qualified Electronic Signature

G. Gochin

Los Angeles, 22 October 2026
eIDAS Qualified Electronic Signature



GRANT ARTHUR GOCHIN

Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania
10900 Winnetka Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311, USA
+1 818-625-6513 · ggochin@gmail.com

His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda
President of the Republic of Lithuania
Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania
S. Daukanto a. 3, LT-01122 Vilnius
kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt

Date: 22 October 2026

Ref.: JEC-PRES-001

Request for an independent investigation of the 1941 service of Dominykas Jėčys-Ažuolis in Alytus, and for the withdrawal of his state honors if he is found to have taken part in the persecution of Jews

Your Excellency,

I. What I ask

1. Dominykas (Domininkas) Jėčys-Ažuolis (1896–1947) holds three posthumous recognitions of the Lithuanian State: volunteer-soldier status, granted on 22 December 1997; the rank of colonel, granted by presidential decree of 19 May 1998; and the Order of the Cross of Vytyis, second degree, awarded by presidential decree No. 238 of 18 November 1998.
2. Documents published from Lithuanian state archives show that in the first weeks of the German occupation of Alytus, in June and July 1941, he held Lithuanian security authority in the town, and signed written authority to detain people and deliver them to the German command, while Jews in Alytus were being arrested and shot. On this record I suspect that he may have taken part in the persecution of the Jews of Alytus. I do not know that he did. I ask you to have the question examined by an independent investigation and, if that investigation finds that he took part, to withdraw the honors that it is within your power to withdraw.
3. This is a request for investigation, not a completed or certified historical study. The sources I have not yet been able to verify are disclosed in Annex 1; each is a reason for the investigation I request, not a premise of it.
4. I submit one application to you, rather than separate requests to each archive and institution, so that the records the question requires are gathered once, by the State, and assessed together. Annex 2 lists those records with their archival references.

II. What the published documents show

5. **23 June 1941.** According to the biography published by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (the Centre) in 2016, Jėčys resumed the post of Alytus county military commandant on the day after German forces entered the town. A local

historian records that three Lithuanian partisan platoons were formed in Alytus at the outbreak of the war, one of them commanded by Capt. D. Jėčys (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 1).

6. **25 June 1941.** The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos states that several hundred Jews of Alytus were taken to Suwałki by Lithuanian nationalists for forced labor and killed (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 2). No source I have read connects Jėčys to this event. It falls within the period in which he held office.
7. **Late June 1941.** A letter to the German commandant of Alytus, signed under the titles "Alytus county security chief," chairman of the county administrative committee, county chief and police chief, asked permission "to shoot communists, Jews and Poles committing crimes on the spot without your knowledge and to make arrests without asking," to form armed partisan platoons under the police, and to complete the "cleansing" of the county in ten days (LCVA f. 1436, ap. 1, b. 29, l. 12–13). The published copy prints the titles but not the names (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 3). I do not attribute this letter to Jėčys. His own signed documents carry a different title. Who held the post of county security chief on that date is the first question I ask the investigation to answer.
8. **30 June 1941.** Certificate No. 203, signed "Reserve Capt. D. Jėčys, Provisional Security Commissar of Alytus town," authorized a rifleman to detain hiding Red Army soldiers and local communists and deliver them to the German commandant's office; the file holds many certificates of this kind (LCVA f. 1436, ap. 1, b. 27, l. 70). The certificate names Red Army soldiers and communists. It does not name Jews.
9. **23 June–16 July 1941.** A German internment camp operated at the Garrison church in Alytus. A diary kept by a prisoner records that Jews were brought in daily and that people were shot in the grove behind the camp. On 4 July 1941 Jėčys, signing as "Alytus Town Security Commissar," submitted a list of 26 officers and 399 soldiers held in the camp, seeking their release (LCVA f. R-1444, ap. 1, b. 4, l. 106).
10. **12–15 July 1941.** By 12 July, Maj. Juozas Ivaškauskas, as "Alytus security chief (commandant)," co-signed with the county chief, S. Maliauskas, an order marking Jews and restricting them. On 15 July the Alytus riflemen-partisan company was reorganized as a TDA company at a meeting he convened. The company's review of 31 August 1941 reports that it arrested 36 communists, 9 Red Army soldiers "and a larger number of Jews," without giving dates (LCVA f. 660, ap. 2, b. 231, l. 1–2).
11. **13 August–9 September 1941.** The Jews of Alytus town and county were murdered. On 13 August, 617 Jewish men and 100 Jewish women were shot. On 9 September, 1,279 Jews were shot, 352 of them children. On every published account he was no longer in a security post by 13 August.

III. The question the State has not answered

12. Three accounts, all published by the Centre, give different ends to his 1941 authority. In 2012 the Centre's journal stated that Maj. Ivaškauskas replaced him "soon." In 2016 the

Centre's biography gave 5 August 1941. His son's memoir, published by the Centre in 2000, describes the office as short-lived. The three titles in the documents — county military commandant, town security commissar and county security chief — may be different offices. If so, the accounts may all be true, and the question of what he commanded, and when, remains open.

13. I therefore ask the investigation to establish, from original records:

13.1. which offices existed in Alytus between 22 June and 31 August 1941, who held each, from what date to what date, and with what powers;

13.2. who signed the late-June letter to the German commandant;

13.3. which armed formations were subordinate to Jėčys, and whether persons under his authority arrested, held, delivered or killed Jews;

13.4. what the State examined about his 1941 service before granting him status, rank and the Cross of Vytis in 1997–1998.

IV. What weighs in his favor

14. The investigation must weigh these facts with the same care. In 1941 he refused to hand over conscription lists to the Soviet authorities. His signed certificate of 30 June names Red Army soldiers and communists, not Jews. His document of 4 July sought the release of Lithuanian soldiers. From mid-July the records show Ivaškauskas, not Jėčys, at the head of security and of the TDA company. In 1941–1944 he headed the municipal welfare department. In 1944 he dispersed his Local Force company when the Germans liquidated that force. He was killed fighting Soviet forces in 1947. No document I have read shows a personal act or order by him against Jews.

15. None of this answers the questions in paragraph 13. It is why they must be answered from the originals rather than assumed in either direction.

V. Why this case requires examination

16. Jėčys's Cross of Vytis bears the same date, 18 November 1998, and his colonel's rank the same date, 19 May 1998, as those of Jonas Semaška-Liepa, whose honors are the subject of my file SEM-001. I have not confirmed whether the same decree covers both. Their wives were sisters. This proves nothing about either man. I ask that the two cases be examined consistently.

17. A historian of the Lithuanian Institute of History, Mindaugas Pocius, concluded in 2021, and in 2022 in the Centre's own journal, that partisan biographies were not examined before statuses, ranks and awards were granted, and that one may speak of systemic errors in state historical policy. The Centre's Director General said in 2015 that statuses were then granted in haste and that wartime service under the Nazis was not examined. The Centre had told the Lithuanian Jewish Community in 2012 that archival data existed on two such commanders. In 2015 the President annulled Pranas Končius's Cross of Vytis for participation in the Holocaust. My own file concerning Jonas Semaška-Liepa (SEM-001) documents the same pattern. I do not ask you to infer guilt from the pattern. I

ask that the pattern be recognized as the reason this case requires independent examination.

VI. Competence

18. Under Article 84(22) of the Constitution the President confers state awards, and the Law on State Awards (No. IX-957) provides for their withdrawal. The annulment of Pranas Končius's Cross of Vytis in 2015 shows that a posthumous Cross of Vytis can be, and has been, withdrawn for participation in the Holocaust.
19. The colonel's rank was granted by presidential decree. Volunteer-soldier status was granted by another body, which I have not been able to identify (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 4). I ask your Office to identify the competent authority for each recognition and to refer to it any part of this request that lies outside your competence, telling me where it has been sent.

VII. Procedure I propose

20. I propose the following, and I ask that any departure from it be explained:
 - 20.1. The Chancellor of State Orders certifies the honors and obtains the original award files.
 - 20.2. The State Awards Council advises under the applicable law.
 - 20.3. Your Office invites the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania to make an independent assessment, with historians nominated by the Vilnius University Faculty of History and the Lithuanian Institute of History and screened for conflicts of interest. If the Commission declines, your Office invites those two bodies to make the assessment directly and records the reasons for any refusal.
 - 20.4. The Centre provides its sources and answers questions, but does not appoint, supervise, edit or approve findings about its own publications.
 - 20.5. When a review begins, its terms and reviewers are announced publicly, with a statement that no finding of guilt is implied.
 - 20.6. You make a separate, reasoned decision on each honor.

VIII. Relief requested

21. I respectfully request that your Office:
 - 21.1. register this application and send me written acknowledgment with its registration number;
 - 21.2. open an independent investigation of the questions in paragraph 13;
 - 21.3. obtain the records listed in Annex 2 from the state archives and institutions that hold them, and, for any holder outside your authority, request its cooperation;
 - 21.4. follow the procedure in Part VII;

21.5. identify the competent authority for the rank and for the volunteer-soldier status and refer those matters to it;

21.6. if the investigation establishes that Jėčys took part in the persecution or murder of Jews, withdraw the Cross of Vytis and initiate the withdrawal of his rank and status by the competent authorities;

21.7. if it does not, state that conclusion with its reasons and sources;

21.8. examine this case consistently with the case of Jonas Semaška-Liepa (SEM-001);

21.9. name the office that coordinates the matter and give me a written, reasoned decision.

IX. Cooperation and limits

22. I will forward to your Office any record I obtain, whether it favors or weighs against Jėčys, subject to the archives' terms and data-protection rules. My general requests on honors and ranks, HRS-002 (to your Office), HRS-001 (to the Centre) and HRS-003 (to the Ministry of National Defence), were sent on 22 October 2026; responses are pending. They do not concern Jėčys specifically.

23. I am not a lawyer. My references to law are offered to assist, not as legal advice. I am a doctoral candidate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Gratz College.

Respectfully,

Grant Arthur Gochin

Annex 1 — Points not yet verified

This application asks the State to investigate. It is not a certified study. In the interest of full disclosure, the following points in it rest on sources I have not yet been able to verify or obtain in original form. None is presumed to support either side.

1. **Paragraph 5.** The partisan platoon commanded by Jėčys. Read: the English abstract of G. Lučinskas, “Nacių nusikaltimai: žudynės Dzūkijoje 1941 metų birželį,” *Terra Jatwezenorum* 3 (2011). Not read: the full article. Requested: Annex 2, item 2.8.
2. **Paragraph 6.** The 25 June 1941 Suwałki deportation. Read: a search extract of the USHMM Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos entry for Alytus. Not read: the full entry or its source notes. Requested: Annex 2, item 7.
3. **Paragraphs 7–8 and 10.** The late-June letter, the 30 June certificate and the TDA records. Read: the texts as published in *Masinės žudynės Lietuvoje 1941–1944*, vol. 2 (Vilnius, 1973), docs. 15–19, a Soviet-edited collection, and the 4 July list as published by G. Lučinskas in *Genocidas ir rezistencija*. Not read: the originals, their signatures, stamps or any omitted parts. Requested: Annex 2, items 1.1–1.7.
4. **Paragraph 19.** The body that granted volunteer-soldier status on 22 December 1997. Read: the date in the Centre’s biography and in A. Bubnys (2018). Not read: the decision. Requested: Annex 2, item 4.
5. **Paragraph 1.** The decree number 238. Read: A. Bubnys, Voruta (2018); the Centre’s biography gives the date without the number. Not read: the decree. Requested: Annex 2, item 5.
6. **Paragraph 12.** The sources of the Centre’s 2012 and 2016 statements on the end of his tenure. Not read: their underlying sources. Requested: Annex 2, items 3.1 and 4.

Annex 2 — Records the investigation requires

The archival references below are taken from published sources. If a holder now uses different references, the current ones should be substituted.

1. **Lithuanian Central State Archives (LCVA) — command and security records, 22 June–31 August 1941**
 - 1.1. f. R-1436, ap. 1, b. 27, l. 70: certificate No. 203 of 30 June 1941 and the other certificates of that kind in the file.
 - 1.2. f. R-1436, ap. 1, b. 29, l. 12–13: the late-June 1941 letter to the Alytus commandant with its annex “Rules for organizing partisans,” and the signed original or other versions.
 - 1.3. f. R-1436, ap. 1, b. 29, l. 64–69: Alytus police lists of 6 July 1941; county chief’s letter of 17 July 1941.
 - 1.4. f. R-1436, ap. 1, b. 5 and b. 9: county chief’s orders and letters, June–September 1941, appointing or releasing commandants, security chiefs and security commissars.
 - 1.5. f. R-1444, ap. 1, b. 4, l. 104–106 and 140: the list of 4 July 1941 and related correspondence.
 - 1.6. f. 745, ap. 2, b. 84: folios on the Alytus commandant’s office and internment camp, 1941.
 - 1.7. f. 660, ap. 2, b. 231: the entire file, including the TDA company diary, order No. 1 of 16 July 1941 (l. 47) and the review of 31 August 1941 (l. 1–2).

- 1.8. Any other records of 22 June–31 August 1941 naming D. Jėčys, the Alytus county military commandant's office, the Alytus town security commissar or the Alytus county security chief.
2. **LCVA — Alytus municipal Social Supply Department, 1941–1944.** Records of the department he headed, including any receipt, storage or distribution of property of murdered Jews; f. R-1436, ap. 1, b. 30, l. 309 (county chief's address of 6 September 1941 on Jewish property); related records in f. R-1436 and f. 1567. This is a line of inquiry only; it assumes nothing.
 3. **Lithuanian Special Archives (LYA)**
 - 3.1. f. 1, ap. 1, b. 98: interrogation materials of Jonas Borevičius, including l. 28–32, 38–39 and 43–44, the source cited for the succession of the Alytus commandant's office.
 - 3.2. The MGB report of August 1947 on the Punia forest operation and the identification of Jėčys; the burial act for his remains.
 - 3.3. f. K-1, ap. 58, b. 47337/3, t. 10, l. 191–192: interrogation record of A. Nykštaitis, 29 June 1960.
 - 3.4. A search of investigative files, in particular f. K-1, ap. 58, for D. Jėčys (born 1896, in some records 1890, son of Povilas), Juozas Ivaškauskas, and persons who served in the Alytus police, TDA company or commandant's office in 1941.
 4. **Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania.** The decision of 22 December 1997 on Jėčys's volunteer-soldier status and its file (proposal, proposer, documents considered, any examination of his 1941–1944 service); the sources of the Centre's 2016 biography (end of tenure on 5 August 1941) and of its 2012 article ("soon" replaced); any later examination by the Centre of his 1941 service.
 5. **Office of the President.** The decree of 19 May 1998 (colonel's rank) and decree No. 238 of 18 November 1998 (Cross of Vytis), with their annexes as they concern Jėčys; the proposals, the documents and biographical information submitted, any advisory opinion, and whether Jėčys and others on the same decree were proposed together.
 6. **Ministry of National Defence.** The Minister's proposal for Jėčys's posthumous colonel's rank and its supporting documents, and whether it was made jointly for other commanders granted ranks on the same date.
 7. **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.** The source notes of the Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos entry for Alytus on the 25 June 1941 Suwałki deportation; copies in RG-26 of the LCVA and LYA records above; any holdings naming Jėčys or Ivaškauskas.

Annex 3 — Published sources cited

1. A. Bubnys, "Holokaustas Alytaus apskrityje 1941 m.," *Genocidas ir rezistencija* 2012, No. 1(31), pp. 32–62.
2. A. Bubnys, "Lietuvos vietinės rinktinės Alytaus apskrities komendantūra 1944 m.," *Voruta*, 16 November 2018.
3. R. Trimonienė, "Dominykas Jėčys-Ažuolis," biography published by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, 2016.

4. G. Lučinskas, “Alytaus internuotų asmenų stovykla 1941 m. birželio–liepos mėn.,” *Genocidas ir rezistencija*.
5. G. Lučinskas, “Nacių nusikaltimai: žudynės Dzūkijoje 1941 metų birželį,” *Terra Jatwezenorum* 3 (2011), abstract.
6. Masinės žudynės Lietuvoje 1941–1944. Dokumentų rinkinys, vol. 2 (Vilnius: Mintis, 1973), docs. 15–19.
7. A. Jėčys, *Sutryptos viltys* (Vilnius: Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, 2000).
8. Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija, “Dominykas Jėčys.”
9. M. Pocius, public discussion, Ukmergė, 2 December 2021 (LRT/BNS), and *Genocidas ir rezistencija*, 2022.



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Los Angeles, 22 October 2026
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Grant Arthur Gochin

Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania
10900 Winnetka Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311, USA
+1 818-625-6513 | ggochin@gmail.com

His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda

President of the Republic of Lithuania

Office of the President, S. Daukanto a. 3, LT-01122 Vilnius (kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt)

Date: the date of the qualified electronic signature. No. SIB-001

APPLICATION FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE CONDUCT OF JUOZAS ŠIBAILA-MERAINIS IN BALNINKAI IN 1941 AND, IF HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE PERSECUTION OF JEWS IS ESTABLISHED, FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF HIS STATE HONORS

Your Excellency,

I. What I ask

1. I respectfully ask you to have the wartime conduct of Juozas (Juozapas) Šibaila (codenames Diedukas, Merainis; 1905–1953) independently investigated. I suspect, on the basis of evidence published by an institution of the Lithuanian State, that he may have taken part in the persecution of the Jews of Balninkai in the summer of 1941 — their arrest, confinement and removal to Ukmergė, after which they were murdered in the Pivonija forest. If the investigation establishes that he did, I ask that his state honors be withdrawn.
2. This is a request for investigation, not a completed or certified historical study. The sources I have not yet been able to verify are disclosed in Annex 1; each is a reason for the investigation I request, not a premise of it.
3. I do not ask you to infer guilt from my suspicion or from Soviet-era testimony. I ask that the State examine the evidence it has itself published, obtain the original records listed in Section VI, weigh the evidence in his favor as carefully as the evidence against him, and give a reasoned decision.

II. Who Juozas Šibaila was, and how the State has honored him

4. Juozas Šibaila was born on 18 March 1905 in Vadėnai (Nedzingė rural district). He was a primary-school teacher, from 1940 to 1944 at Balninkai (then Ukmergė county). From 1944 he was a partisan commander; on 16 February 1949 he signed the Declaration of the Council of the Union of Lithuanian Freedom Fighters (LLKS). He was killed on 11 February 1953 in the Dovydai forest (Ramygala district).
5. According to public sources, the State has recognized him as follows. (a) Volunteer-soldier status, posthumously, 1997 (Universal Lithuanian Encyclopedia, VLE; E. Kripienė, 2021, citing the archive file Š-61 of the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania). (b) The rank of lieutenant colonel, posthumously, by order of the Minister of National Defence of 13 May 1998 (the Centre's gallery of signatories, as quoted in 2012; G. Lučinskas, 2021). (c) The Order of the Cross of Vytis, posthumously: the sources disagree on the class and date — “1st degree,” presidential decree of 19 May 1998 (the Centre's gallery; Lučinskas); Grand Cross, 1998 (VLE);

Grand Cross, presidential decree of 1999 (Kripienė). (d) The status of signatory of the 1949 LLKS Council Declaration, granted by the Seimas in 2010 (VLE). (e) A monument at the place of his death (2004) and the collective monument to the Declaration's signatories at Minaičiai (2010) (VLE).

6. The Order of the Cross of Vytis is within your competence. The rank, the volunteer-soldier status and the signatory status were conferred by other authorities. I ask you to act on the award, and, so far as the other recognitions are concerned, to identify the competent authorities and invite them to consider the results of the investigation.

III. Why I suspect he may have been a Holocaust perpetrator

7. In 2021 the Centre's own journal, *Genocidas ir rezistencija* (No. 2(50), pp. 80–105; editor-in-chief Dr. Arūnas Bubnys), published a biography of Šibaila by the Centre's historian Dr. Enrika Kripienė, based on files of the Lithuanian Special Archives (LYA). She writes (my translation):

“It is known that he took part in arresting and interrogating the town's former local communists and Soviet activists. Also, according to J. Steikūnas, former insurgents led by J. Šibaila helped the then head of the Balninkai police precinct, P. Stumbras, in the summer of 1941 to carry out an order received from Ukmergė county – to settle all the Jews of the town of Balninkai in one place, that is, in a ghetto. The same Jews were convoyed in August 1941 to Ukmergė prison and later shot in the Pivonija forest a few kilometres outside the town.” (pp. 88–89)

“The witness in the case, Julijonas Reinartas, stated under interrogation that P. Stumbras and J. Šibaila sat, together with other insurgents, in one of the wagons carrying Jews to Ukmergė; it is also important that P. Stumbras himself confirmed the insurgents' participation in these actions, but stated that none of them took part in shooting the Jews.” (p. 89)

“Ignas Kraujūnas, a resident of the Balninkai area, testified in another criminal case that in the summer of 1941 he saw armed men, J. Šibaila among them, guarding arrested persons of Jewish nationality in the town centre.” (p. 89)

8. The Lithuanian original of the central sentence reads: „J. Šibailos vadovaujami buvę sukilėliai 1941 m. vasarą padėjo tuometiniam Balninkų policijos nuovados viršininkui P. Stumbrui vykdyti iš Ukmergės apskrities gautą įsakymą – visus Balninkų miestelio žydus apgyvendinti vienoje vietoje, t. y. gete.“ Kripienė also records that witnesses later named Šibaila as one of the unit's leading persons, that he was on the list of 33 members of the Balninkai insurgent group (LCVA f. R-688, ap. 1, b. 1, l. 17), and that the other detained Soviet activists were shot by decision of the insurgents in the Valai forest.

9. The Jews of Balninkai were murdered. Pinkas Hakehillot Lita (Dov Levin) records that they were taken to the Pivonija forest near Ukmergė and murdered there, giving the date 5 September 1941. Yad Vashem records mass shootings in the Pivonija forest between July and September 1941; on 5 September 1941 alone, 4,708 people were murdered there, 1,737 of them children. The exact date on which the Jews of Balninkai were murdered is not settled in the sources I have seen.

10. Earlier testimony, published in the Soviet compilation “Masinės žudynės Lietuvoje 1941–1944” (1973) and quoted in English by the researcher Evaldas Balčiūnas (Defending History, 29 October 2012), adds two points that require examination: that Stepas (Steponas) Urbonavičius, appointed head (viršaitis) of the Balninkai rural district in June 1941, described Šibaila as

“punishment unit commander” at a conference held at the end of June 1941, after which the detainees chosen there were shot that night in the Valai forest; and that the detainees he named included Jews — Jankelis Treibišas, two Šapiraitė sisters and Leizeris Bušneris. Whether those Jews were among the persons shot is not established.

11. The Supreme Court of Lithuania, in a ruling of 27 April 2010 rehabilitating Šibaila’s co-commander Jonas Steikūnas (case No. 4R-3PAsk./2010, as quoted by Balčiūnas; I have not seen the ruling), is reported to have recited that the Balninkai unit captured Soviet activists, thirteen of whom were shot in the Valai forest, and that about one hundred Jews of Balninkai were taken by wagon to Ukmergė prison under escort of the unit and later shot in the Pivonija forest.

12. This evidence does not prove individual criminal responsibility. It is, however, specific, it comes in substantial part from a State institution, and it concerns the confinement, guarding and removal to their deaths of the Jewish residents of the town in which Šibaila was a teacher and a member of the armed unit that controlled it. In my respectful submission it is serious enough to require the State to find out what he did before it continues to honor him.

IV. What is in his favor

13. Any fair investigation must weigh the following. His wife and three young sons were deported to the Altai region in mid-June 1941, days before the uprising, and he himself was marked for arrest by the NKGB. The overall commanders of the Balninkai unit were Petras Stumbras and then Jonas Steikūnas, not Šibaila. No source I have found places him at the shooting of Jews, and Stumbras stated that the insurgents did not take part in it. In early July 1941 he personally interrogated and released Nikodemas Šaduikis, a member of the group that had deported his family, which, Kripienė writes, saved Šaduikis’s life. His later writings rejected the inflaming of passions and argued for Christian-democratic and rule-of-law principles. He was never tried and could never answer the testimony against him.

14. All direct testimony about his conduct in 1941 comes from Soviet interrogations conducted between 1944 and 1960. Kripienė herself warns that testimony collected 8–20 years later may be inaccurate or biased, while adding that the participation of insurgent-unit members in moving Jews to ghettos and conveying them to towns or mass-murder sites is not unknown to historiography. Such testimony must be tested against independent sources, in both directions. That is precisely why I ask for an investigation rather than an immediate decision.

15. His honors were given for his resistance after 1944. That service does not answer the question whether his conduct in 1941 was examined before he was honored.

V. Why this case requires examination now

16. A historian of the Lithuanian Institute of History, Mindaugas Pocius, concluded in 2021, and in 2022 in the Centre’s own journal, that partisan biographies were not examined before statuses, ranks and awards were granted, and that one may speak of systemic errors in state historical policy. The Centre’s Director General said in 2015 that statuses were then granted in haste and that wartime service under the Nazis was not examined. The Centre had told the Lithuanian Jewish Community in 2012 that archival data existed on two such commanders. In 2015 the President annulled Pranas Končius’s Cross of Vytis for participation in the Holocaust. My own submissions concerning Kazys Škirpa, Antanas Baltūsis-Žvejys, Izidorius Pucevičius-Radvila and Jonas Semaška-Liepa document the same pattern. I do not ask you to infer guilt from the pattern. I ask that the pattern be recognized as the reason this case requires independent examination.

17. Šibaila's volunteer-soldier status (1997), rank (1998) and award (1998 or 1999) fall within that period. The evidence against him was published by the Centre itself in 2021, after the honors were conferred. I have found no indication that any authority has since reviewed them. VLE continues to list all of them, and its entry describes his conduct in 1941 only as participation in the anti-Soviet June Uprising.

18. The Končius decision of 2015 shows that a posthumous Order of the Cross of Vytis given for resistance can be, and has been, withdrawn for participation in the Holocaust. I ask you to consider whether the Law on State Awards (No. IX-957), including its provisions on the withdrawal of awards (Articles 18 and 30), applies to this case, and, if you consider that any part of it lies outside your competence, to state which authority is competent.

VI. The records an investigation requires

19. So that the investigation can begin from the primary sources rather than from my summary, I set out every record I have identified, with its holder. I respectfully ask your Office to obtain these records, or to invite their holders to make them available to the investigators, and to provide me with those that may lawfully be disclosed.

- (1) Office of the President: the decree awarding Šibaila the Order of the Cross of Vytis (number, date, class); its legal basis, including whether it was conferred on an individual nomination or by equivalence with his partisan Crosses of the Freedom Struggle under the 1997 legislation described by VLE; the nomination, its annexes and any awards-commission or council documents; whether his conduct in 1941–1944 was examined; and any later requests or comments concerning the award.
- (2) Ministry of National Defence: the order of 13 May 1998 conferring the rank of lieutenant colonel (or whichever act conferred it), the proposal and its annexes, and whether his conduct in 1941–1944 was examined.
- (3) Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania: archive file Š-61; the 1997 volunteer-soldier status decision, its legal basis and the material examined; any proposals the Centre made for the 1998 rank or award; any requests received about his conduct in 1941 and whether, after Kripienė's 2021 article, the Centre considered a review; the Centre's conclusion No. 37R-16 of 8 February 2010 in the Steikūnas rehabilitation case; and the current text and sources of its biography of Šibaila in the gallery of signatories.
- (4) Lithuanian Special Archives: f. K-1, ap. 58, b. 46354/3 (the Balninkai insurgents case, 1959–1960), in particular vol. 1, ff. 4, 56, 66–67, 141 verso, 165, 219, 225, 250 verso and 273 verso, and vol. 2, f. 6 (protocols of J. Reinartas, J. Steikūnas, P. Stumbras, J. Susnys, R. Aukštuolis and N. Šaduikis), with the outcome of the case and any other folios concerning Šibaila, the Jews of Balninkai or the Valai shootings.
- (5) Lithuanian Special Archives: f. K-1, ap. 58, b. P-14194, ff. 12 verso and 15 (S. Urbanavičius/Urbonavičius, 13 November 1944); b. 27895/3, f. 11 (A. Narušis, 13 November 1944); b. P-16937, f. 58 (I. Kraujūnas, 5 April 1949).
- (6) Lithuanian Special Archives: f. V-5, ap. 1, b. 37005 (the Šibaila family's 1941 deportation file, including ff. 1–4, 11–14, 24 and 42) — evidence of his persecution, which must be weighed in his favor.
- (7) Lithuanian Central State Archives: f. R-688, ap. 1, b. 1, f. 17 (list of the Balninkai group), and any June–September 1941 records of the Balninkai rural district and police precinct, or

of the Ukmergė county chief or police, concerning the registration, property, concentration and removal of the Jews of Balninkai.

- (8) Supreme Court of Lithuania: the ruling of 27 April 2010 in the rehabilitation case of Jonas Steikūnas (reported as case No. 4R-3PAsk./2010) and the conclusions before the Court, including that of the Prosecutor General.
- (9) Seimas: the 2010 act conferring signatory status on Šibaila, its explanatory note, committee conclusions and any biographies or historical certificates submitted, and whether conduct in 1941–1944 was assessed.
- (10) Published works: Kripienė (2021); Lučinskas, *Terra Jatwezenorum* 13(2) (2021), pp. 114–141; K. Strazdas, *Laisvės kovų archyvas* 31 (2002), pp. 149–179; R. Kaunietis (comp.), *Laisvės kovotojų prisiminimai*, book VII, part I (2009), p. 491 (the memoir of Klemensas Nečiūnas-Urėdas, which contains an unexplained statement about Šibaila and Jews at the Kurkliai mill); *Masinės žudynės Lietuvoje 1941–1944* (1973), pp. 296–298 and 419–420; and the names of the Jewish victims of Balninkai.

VII. Proposed procedure

20. I respectfully propose: (a) that the Chancellor certify each recognition listed in Section II and assemble the original files; (b) that the State Awards Council advise under the applicable law; (c) that you invite the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania to carry out a genuinely independent assessment, with conflict-screened historians nominated by the Faculty of History of Vilnius University and the Lithuanian Institute of History; and (d) that you then reach a separate reasoned decision on the award and inform the competent authorities of the result as regards the rank, the volunteer-soldier status and the signatory status. If the Commission declines, I ask that the two academic bodies be invited to make the assessment directly, and that any refusal be documented with reasons. I do not suggest that the President can compel an autonomous academic body.

21. Because the principal adverse evidence and the volunteer-soldier recognition both come from the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre, I ask that the Centre provide its records and answer questions, but that it not appoint, supervise, edit or approve the findings of the review of its own work. I also ask that the review's terms be announced publicly when it begins, with a statement that no finding of guilt is implied, and that its methodology, sources, any dissent and the reasoned decision be published, subject to lawful restrictions.

22. I will provide every source I hold, favorable or adverse, subject to the terms of the archives and data-protection rules, and I ask your Office to name the coordinating official to whom they should be sent.

VIII. Relief requested

- 1. Register this application, confirm its registration number and date, and name the responsible official.
- 2. Have the conduct of Juozas Šibaila in Balninkai in June–September 1941 independently investigated, as proposed in Section VII.
- 3. Obtain, or invite the holders to make available, the records listed in Section VI, and provide me with those that may lawfully be disclosed.

4. State the number, date, class and legal basis of the decree awarding him the Order of the Cross of Vytis.
5. If the investigation establishes that he took part in the persecution of Jews, withdraw the award, and inform the Ministry of National Defence, the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre and the Seimas of the findings so that each may consider the recognition within its competence.
6. If you consider that any part of this application lies outside your competence, forward it to the competent authority and inform me which authority that is.
7. Give a reasoned decision on each point, within the period set by Article 10(4) of the Law on Public Administration, or inform me of the expected date.

I make this application in the belief that the Republic's highest honors should never be held by a person who took part in the murder of its Jewish citizens, and that, where the evidence raises that question, the State should answer it openly and fairly.

Yours faithfully,

Grant Arthur Gochin
Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania

Annex 1 – Sources not yet verified

This application asks the State to investigate. It is not a certified study. In the interest of full disclosure, the following points in it rest on sources I have not yet been able to verify or obtain in original form. None is presumed to support either side.

1. Paragraph 5: the decree awarding the Order of the Cross of Vytis — number, date (19 May 1998, 1998 or 1999) and class (“1st degree” or Grand Cross). Read: VLE, Kripienė (2021), Lučinskas (2021, abstract only), the Centre’s gallery as quoted by Balčiūnas (2012). Not seen: the decree. Requested: Section VI(1).
2. Paragraph 5: the volunteer-soldier status decision of 1997 — instrument, date and issuing body. Read: VLE; Kripienė. Not seen: the decision. Requested: Section VI(3).
3. Paragraph 5: the order of the Minister of National Defence of 13 May 1998 — number and proposer. Read: the Centre’s gallery as quoted in 2012; Lučinskas (abstract). Not seen: the order. Requested: Section VI(2).
4. Paragraphs 7–8: all LYA and LCVA references are taken from Kripienė’s notes 83, 85–86, 88–93, 97 and 101. Read: Kripienė’s full article (pp. 80–105). Not seen: any original folio. Requested: Section VI(4)–(7).
5. Paragraph 10: the 1944 testimony of S. Urbonavičius and the 1973 compilation. Read: Balčiūnas’s English translation (2012) and Kripienė’s notes 89 and 101. Not seen: the compilation or the protocol. Requested: Section VI(5) and (10).
6. Paragraph 10: whether the Jewish detainees named by Urbonavičius were among those shot in the Valai forest. Not established by any source I have read.
7. Paragraph 9: the date on which the Jews of Balninkai were murdered (Pinkas Hakehillot Lita: 5 September 1941; Kripienė: “later”) and their number (Steikūnas, as reported: about one hundred; Pinkas: 50–60 families in the interwar years). Requested: Section VI(7) and (10).
8. Paragraph 11: the Supreme Court ruling of 27 April 2010 and the case number. Read: Balčiūnas’s quotation only. Not seen: the ruling. Requested: Section VI(8).
9. Section VI(10): the memoir of K. Nečiūnas-Urėdas on the Kurkliai mill. Read: Kripienė’s quotation and her finding that nothing further was found. Not seen: the book. Requested: Section VI(10).
10. Paragraph 5: the 2010 signatory status. Read: VLE only. Not seen: the Seimas act. Requested: Section VI(9).
11. Paragraph 16: the statements of Pocius (2021, 2022), the Centre (2012) and its Director General (2015), and the Končius decision (2015), are cited from my earlier submissions and the sources identified in them; I have not re-read each original for this application.
12. Whether any relative of Šibaila holds state office has not been checked.

Annex 2 – Published sources

1. E. Kripienė, “Juozas Šibaila-Merainis,” *Genocidas ir rezistencija*, 2021, No. 2(50), pp. 80–105 — <https://www.zurnalai.vu.lt/gr/article/view/35342> (full text read 22 October 2026).
2. Universal Lithuanian Encyclopedia (VLE), “Juozapas Šibaila” — <https://www.vle.lt/straipsnis/juozapas-sibaila/> (captured 22 October 2026); “Lietuvos partizanų žymenys” — <https://www.vle.lt/straipsnis/lietuvos-partizanu-zymenys/>.

3. G. Lučinskas, “Mokytojas, šaulys, partizanų vadas Juozas Šibaila (1905–1953),” *Terra Jatwezenorum*, 2021, No. 13(2), pp. 114–141 (abstract) — <https://www.lituanistika.lt/content/99161>.
4. E. Balčiūnas, “Juozas Šibaila, Another ‘Hero’ with a Suppressed Biography,” *Defending History*, 29 October 2012 — <https://defendinghistory.com/juozas-sibaila-another-hero-with-a-suppressed-biography/44677>.
5. Pinkas Hakehillot Lita (ed. Dov Levin), “Balninkai,” English translation — https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinkas_lita/lit_00167.html.
6. Yad Vashem, “Murder story of Ukmergė Jews in the Pivonija Forest” — <https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/untold-stories/killing-site/15029836>.



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G. Gochin

Los Angeles, 23 October 2026
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GRANT ARTHUR GOCHIN

10900 Winnetka Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311, USA
+1 818-625-6513 · ggochin@gmail.com

22 October 2026

Ref.: LIU-001

To: His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lithuania, through the Chancellor of the Lithuanian State Orders and the State Awards Council —
kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt

Subject: Request for an investigation of Kostas (Konstantinas) Liuberskis-Žvainys, recipient of the Commander's Cross of the Order of the Cross of Vytis (Decree No. 1K-952 of 9 May 2007), and for withdrawal of the award if his identity with the "Liuberskis" of the September 1941 Šiauliai ghetto selections and the legal grounds for withdrawal are established

Your Excellency,

I. Request

1. I am a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania. I ask that you investigate whether Kostas (Konstantinas) Liuberskis-Žvainys (born 23 July 1913, Žagarė rural district), on whom the Commander's Cross of the Order of the Cross of Vytis was conferred posthumously by Decree No. 1K-952 of 9 May 2007, is the Liuberskis who, according to two published accounts of the Šiauliai ghetto, led the September 1941 commission whose lists and certificates decided which Jews would be taken and shot. If the investigation identifies him as that man, and the grounds set by the Law on State Awards are established, I ask that the award be withdrawn.
2. I suspect that he may have been a Holocaust perpetrator. I do not ask you to accept that suspicion. I ask you to test it against the records listed in Section VII, which the State holds or can obtain and I cannot.
3. This is a request for investigation, not a completed or certified historical study. The sources I have not yet been able to verify are disclosed in Annex 1; each is a reason for the investigation I request, not a premise of it.

II. The award and related recognitions

4. Decree No. 1K-952 of 9 May 2007, issued on the occasion of the Day of Honoring the Partisans and of the Unity of the Army and Society, awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of the Cross of Vytis to "Kostas LIUBERSKIS (Žvainys) (posthumously) – partisan of the Prisikėlimas District, publisher of the underground press, killed in 1969." Article 1 states that the awards were made taking into account the proposal of the Minister of National Defence and the recommendation of the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (LGGRTC). The Presidency's awards database gives the same date. The State open-data register gives 8 May 2007 for the same decree; I treat that as a metadata discrepancy. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 1)
5. Published biographies state that his volunteer-soldier status was recognized on 22 October 2003. They differ on rank: one states that the Minister of National Defence confirmed the rank of sergeant

major (viršila) in December 2003; another states that an order of 27 February 2004 conferred the rank of senior non-commissioned officer. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 2) LGGRTC has publicly commemorated him on 2 October as the last Lithuanian partisan killed. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 3) I ask about the decoration. The status, rank and commemoration are recorded because the same evidence bears on each, and each rests with its own authority.

III. The 1941 record

6. Two published accounts name a Liuberskis in the September 1941 selections in the Šiauliai ghetto.

7. Leiba Lipshitz's "Šiauliai Ghetto Chronicle," in *Šiaulių getas: kalinių sąrašai* (Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum, Vilnius, 2002), records, in the English translation I published in 2023, that on 8 September 1941 a city municipality commission "led by Liuberskis" and Liolys compiled lists of ghetto residents unable to work and infirm; that on 11 September 1941 about 100 Jews were arrested "according to the list made by Liuberskis" and shot in the Gubernija forest; and that on 15 September 1941 Liuberskis and Pimpa, with Lithuanian police, issued new passes, those without them being condemned. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 4) This account gives only the surname.

8. Arūnas Bubnys, *The Šiauliai Ghetto* (LGGRTC, Vilnius, 2014; English translation, pp. 27–28), states that on 13 September 1941 a new registration was carried out in the ghetto and that "Konstantinas Liuberskis was in charge of this action"; that a special commission overseen by Liuberskis decided who received the yellow certificate given to Jews still able to work; and that a negative decision was, in practice, a death penalty. He cites the diary of Eliezer Yerushalmi as published in the *Black Book* (Vilnius, 1993, pp. 267–268). The same work records that Jews from Šiauliai were shot in the Normančiai sector of the Gubernija forest on 7–15 September 1941. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 5)

9. The two accounts give different dates (8, 11 and 15 September; 13 September). Both may be accurate and describe separate steps in one process of listing, certification and removal. I ask that the investigation obtain the whole series of records rather than choose between the dates, and that it distinguish any role in administrative selection from any direct part in the shootings. I do not rely on the earlier killings at Bubiai, which the published accounts connect to an earlier selection.

IV. The identity question

10. The first question is identity. In this application, "the 1941 Liuberskis" means the man named in the ghetto accounts, and "the awardee" means the decorated partisan. I do not treat them as the same person; matching names and presence in Šiauliai make the identification plausible, not established. The evidence I have found is set out below, on both sides.

(a) Name. The Centre's 2014 monograph gives the first name Konstantinas, which is the decorated man's given name. I have not established whether that first name comes from the cited diary or was supplied by the author. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 5)

(b) Age. Born in 1913, he was 28 in September 1941.

(c) Residence. A biography prepared by Rūta Trimonienė, citing LGGRTC's 2010 atlas of the Western Lithuania partisan region, states that he lived in Šiauliai during the first Soviet occupation and the German occupation. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 6)

(d) Occupation. An article by Mindaugas Sereičikas, Aurelija Malinauskaitė and Darius Žygelis in Karys (2016, No. 12), the journal of the Ministry of National Defence, states that during the German occupation he worked in the financial inspectorate in Šiauliai. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 7)

(e) Municipal appointment. Lipshitz describes the commission as a city municipality commission; Bubnys describes a commission formed on the orders of the Šiauliai authorities. A post in a state financial inspectorate and membership of a municipal commission are different roles; the instrument that appointed the commission and its members has not been found.

(f) Contrary evidence. The Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija states that he was in hiding from 1940, during both occupations, which the Karys article and the Trimonienė biography contradict. Other men named Liuberskis are recorded in the same district. Neither Lipshitz nor Bubnys states that the man in the ghetto was the later partisan. (not yet verified: Annex 1, item 8)

11. These questions can be resolved from the 1941 Šiauliai municipal and financial-inspectorate records, the 1964 KGB case file on him, and the files on which the 2003 status and 2007 award were based. That is why I ask for an investigation and not for a decision.

V. Questions about the 2007 award process

12. The central question is this. The Centre recommended the award in 2007. In 2014 the same Centre published an account naming a Konstantinas Liuberskis as the man in charge of a ghetto action in which refusal of a certificate was, in practice, a death sentence. Did the Centre ever examine whether these were the same man? The 2014 publication came seven years after the recommendation and does not show what the Centre knew in 2007. Without assuming the allegation is true, I ask that the investigation answer:

(a) What examination of his 1941–1944 activity did the Ministry of National Defence carry out before its proposal, and what did the Centre carry out before its recommendation?

(b) What evidence supported the statement that he was in hiding throughout the German occupation?

(c) Did either institution know of the Lipshitz chronicle (2002) or of Evaldas Balčiūnas's publication of 29 June 2012?

(d) After the Centre published, in 2014, a monograph naming “Konstantinas Liuberskis” as the man in charge of the 13 September 1941 action, did it examine whether this was the man it had recommended in 2007, and did it inform the Presidency?

(e) After the Ministry's journal stated in 2016 that he worked in Šiauliai during the German occupation, did the Ministry reconcile that statement with the record on which it had proposed the award?

VI. Prior notice and the wider pattern

13. The allegation has been public since 29 June 2012, when Evaldas Balčiūnas published it on Defending History. I listed it in The Times of Israel on 9 November 2022 and set out the chronicle

text there on 10 January 2023. On 13 and 18 October 2026 I submitted requests SIA-001 and SIA-001-S1 to the editors of the Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija concerning its articles on the Šiauliai ghetto and the history of Šiauliai, with a copy to the Centre, which registered the supplement on 19 October 2026 as No. 7R-1337.

14. A historian of the Lithuanian Institute of History, Mindaugas Pocius, concluded in 2021, and in 2022 in the Centre's own journal, that partisan biographies were not examined before statuses, ranks and awards were granted, and that one may speak of systemic errors in state historical policy. The Centre's Director General said in 2015 that statuses were then granted in haste and that wartime service under the Nazis was not examined. The Centre had told the Lithuanian Jewish Community in 2012 that archival data existed on two such commanders. In 2015 the President annulled Pranas Končius's Cross of Vytis for participation in the Holocaust. My own applications of 22 October 2026 concerning Antanas Baltūsis-Žvejys, Dominykas Jėčys-Ažuolis, Jonas Semaška-Liepa, Antanas Slučka-Šarūnas, Juozas Šibaila-Merainis and Kazys Škirpa document the same pattern; they do not establish guilt, or a failure of vetting, in this case. The award to Liuberskis was made in 2007, after the period the Director General described; whether any examination of his 1941 activity preceded it is one of the questions in Section V. I do not ask you to infer guilt from the pattern. I ask that the pattern be recognized as the reason this case requires independent examination.

VII. Records I ask your Office to obtain

(a) The Minister of National Defence's proposal and the Centre's recommendation on which Decree No. 1K-952 was based, with any biographical certificate, the advice of the State Awards Commission, and any record of his 1941–1944 activity.

(b) The decision of 22 October 2003 recognizing his volunteer-soldier status, the issuing body, and its file.

(c) The Ministry of National Defence instrument(s) of December 2003 and/or 27 February 2004 on his rank, and their files.

(d) Šiauliai Regional State Archives: 1941 Šiauliai city municipality orders forming ghetto commissions, their membership, and staff and payroll records; personnel records of the Šiauliai financial inspectorate, 1941–1944.

(e) For September 1941: the appointment orders, membership lists and signatures of every Šiauliai commission dealing with ghetto registration, certificates or lists; the registration lists and certificate decisions themselves; transport and removal records; and any departmental record linking the Šiauliai financial inspectorate, or its staff, to that work.

(f) Lithuanian Special Archives, fond K-1: the 1964 KGB criminal case on Steponas Erstikis and Kostas Liuberskis (reported as No. 47416/3) and any file on his 1950 arrest, to be read for what they record, or do not record, about 1941.

(g) Lithuanian Central State Archives: his interwar military aviation personnel file, to fix his identity.

(h) The original Lipshitz chronicle and its name index; the Yerushalmi diary entries for September 1941 in the original (Pinkas Shavli, 1958) and in the Black Book edition cited by

Bubnys; and the Centre's source file for the passage naming "Konstantinas Liuberskis" in its 2014 monograph.

(i) The sources used by the authors of the 2016 Karys article for his employment in the Šiauliai financial inspectorate.

VIII. Relief requested

1. Register this application and send me written acknowledgment with its registration number.
2. Obtain the records in Section VII, or tell me which authority holds each that your Office cannot obtain.
3. Invite the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania to assess the case, with conflict-screened historians nominated by the Vilnius University Faculty of History and the Lithuanian Institute of History; if the Commission declines, invite those two bodies to assess it directly.
4. Ensure that no person who prepared or advised on the 2003 status, the rank, the 2007 proposal or recommendation, or the Centre's commemoration decides the case. Authors of the publications cited here should be asked for their sources, not to judge them.
5. Decide first, with reasons, whether the 1941 Liuberskis and the 2007 awardee are the same person.
6. If they are the same person, determine with reasons what he did, distinguishing administrative selection from direct participation in killing, and whether the grounds for withdrawal under the Law on State Awards are established and, if they are, withdraw the Commander's Cross, as was done for Pranas Končius in 2015.
7. Answer the questions in Section V.
8. Where the status, rank or commemoration fall outside your competence, identify the competent authority and transmit the findings to it.
9. Inform me of the outcome by a reasoned written decision.

IX. Cooperation and limits

15. I will forward any records I obtain, favorable or adverse, subject to archival and data-protection terms. I am not a lawyer; references to law are for the purpose of this request. A finding that the 1941 Liuberskis was another man would answer this application, and I would accept it.

Respectfully,

Grant Arthur Gochin

Distribution

Principal addressee: President of the Republic of Lithuania, through the Chancellor of State Orders and the State Awards Council — kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt. Co-addressee: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania — urm@urm.lt. Additional recipients: LGGRTC Council member(s), by verified role — through LGGRTC, centras@genocid.lt (institutional delivery;

individual address not asserted); Director, Lithuanian Institute of History — istorija@istorija.lt; Dean, Vilnius University Faculty of History — if@if.vu.lt; Head of Lithuania's IHRA Delegation — through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Chair, Lithuanian Jewish Community — info@lzb.lt. Additional recipients receive this application for information and possible independent consideration. They are not asked to predetermine findings, and their inclusion does not make them co-applicants.

ANNEX 1 — Sources not yet verified

This application asks the State to investigate. It is not a certified study. In the interest of full disclosure, the following points in it rest on sources I have not yet been able to verify or obtain in original form. None is presumed to support either side.

1. (Para. 4) Decree No. 1K-952 of 9 May 2007, Valstybės žinios 2007: listed with its Liuberskis entry in the Infolex legal database (entry 120669) and in the Presidency awards database. The full text of Article 1, including its reference to the Defence Minister’s proposal and the Centre’s recommendation, was read in a transcription of the official text; the official register copy could not be opened. The State open-data register gives 8 May 2007.
2. (Para. 5) Status of 22 October 2003 and rank order of 27 February 2004: from Trimonienė. December 2003 confirmation of the rank of sergeant major: from the aviation-history site plienosparnai.lt and Balčiūnas (2012). Instruments not read; issuing body of the status not stated.
3. (Para. 5) LGGRTC commemoration on 2 October: read as quoted in my article of 10 January 2023; current LGGRTC page not checked.
4. (Para. 7) Lipshitz chronicle: read only in English translation as published by me (2023, giving p. 207) and by Balčiūnas (2012). The original-language text, full chapter and name index have not been read.
5. (Paras. 8, 10(a)) Bubnys 2014: read in the English translation published on atmintiesknygos.lt; the Lithuanian original and the cited Black Book pages have not been read. Whether the first name appears in Yerushalmi’s diary is not established. A third-party review I received referred to a published account giving about 130 elderly victims; I could not locate that account and do not rely on it.
6. (Para. 10(c)) Trimonienė’s statement cites the LGGRTC 2010 atlas, which I have not read.
7. (Para. 10(d)) Karys 2016, No. 12: read as reproduced on plienosparnai.lt (page 603), which names the article and its three authors; the journal PDF has not been read. The same site’s short biography (page 312) also states that he worked in the Šiauliai financial inspectorate.
8. (Para. 10(f)) Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija, “Kostas Liuberskis,” read online 22 October 2026. Namesakes: “Liuberskis B.-Žalgiris” in the index of Laisvės kovos Prisikėlimo apygardoje (LGGRTC, 1999); Juozas and Vincas Liuberskis of Gaudikiai, Žagarė rural district, listed in J. Prunskis, Lietuva bolševikų okupacijoje. Death: LGGRTC’s 2010 atlas (via Trimonienė) states he was killed by the KGB on 2 October 1969; the encyclopedia gives 1957 or 1969 (Riga); Karys 2016 reports that the KGB file does not record his death and that LGGRTC (2006) and Akmenė municipality (2010) searches for his remains were unsuccessful.

ANNEX 2 — Published sources

A. Decree No. 1K-952 of 9 May 2007: <https://www.infolex.lt/ta/120669>

B. Presidency awards database:
<https://www.lrp.lt/lt/prezidento-veikla/apdovanojimai/apdovanotu-asmenu-duomenu-baze/27252>

- C. A. Bubnys, The Šiauliai Ghetto (LGRTC, Vilnius, 2014), English translation: https://www.atmintiesknygos.lt/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2014_siauliai_ghetto.pdf
- D. M. Sereičikas, A. Malinauskaitė, D. Žygelis, “Karo lakūnas ir partizanų spaudos leidėjas Konstantinas Liuberskis-Žvainys,” Karys 2016, No. 12, as reproduced: <https://www.plienosparnai.lt/page.php?603>
- E. R. Trimonienė, “Konstantinas Liuberskis-Žvainys”: <https://partizanai.org/rutos-trimonienes/6814-konstantinas-liuberskis-zvainys-2>
- F. Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija, “Kostas Liuberskis”: <https://www.vle.lt/straipsnis/kostas-liuberskis/>
- G. E. Balčiūnas, Defending History, 29 June 2012: <https://defendinghistory.com/legendary-resistance-partisan-or-war-criminal-who-selected-jews-for-mass-murder/37004>
- H. G. A. Gochin, “What Dr. Elchanan Elkes witnessed,” The Times of Israel, 9 November 2022: <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/what-dr-elchanan-elkes-witnessed/>
- I. G. A. Gochin and E. Balčiūnas, “Exporting National Holocaust Distortion,” The Times of Israel, 10 January 2023: <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/exporting-national-holocaust-distortion/>
- J. A. Malinauskaitė (ed.), Laisvės kovos Prisikėlimo apygardoje (LGRTC and Šiauliai “Aušra” Museum, 1999): https://www.partizanai.org/failai/html/prisikelimo_apygardoje.htm



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G. Gochin

Los Angeles, 23 October 2026
eIDAS Qualified Electronic Signature



Grant Arthur Gochin
Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania
10900 Winnetka Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311, USA
+1 818-625-6513 · ggochin@gmail.com

22 October 2026
Reference: LUK-PRES-001

His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda
President of the Republic of Lithuania
Through the Chancellor of State Orders and the State Awards Council
S. Daukanto a. 3, LT-01122 Vilnius · kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt

Application for investigation of the state honors of Juozas Lukša-Daumantas, 1921–1951

Your Excellency,

I. What I ask

1. I ask the President to have it investigated whether Juozas Lukša-Daumantas, posthumously awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of the Cross of Vytis in 1997, took part in the murder of Jews at the *Lietūkis* garage in Kaunas on 27 June 1941. Holocaust survivors published that accusation in 1999 and 2001. The Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania summarized it for the police in 2014 and said it had found no further data. No independent examination has been made public.
2. I suspect, on the published survivor accounts, that Juozas Lukša-Daumantas may have been a perpetrator of the Holocaust. Those accounts have not been independently corroborated, and I do not ask the President to act on them as they stand. As a first step, I ask that the original of the Centre's 2014 letter and the witness accounts underlying the accusation be obtained and provided for examination. This is a request to obtain and independently examine the evidence. It does not ask for a finding of personal responsibility, and any withdrawal of honors would depend on what that examination establishes. If his participation in the persecution or murder of Jews is established, I ask that his Cross of Vytis be withdrawn and that the competent authorities review his rank and status.
3. This is a request for investigation, not a completed or certified historical study. The sources I have not yet been able to verify are disclosed in Annex 1; each is a reason for the investigation I request, not a premise of it.
4. I do not rely on the claim, repeated in some publications, that Lukša beheaded Rabbi Zalman Osovsky. The source of that account, as summarized by the Centre in 2014, attributed the act to a different man, Viktoras Vitkauskas. That allegation is the subject of my separate application of today's date, VIT-PRES-001. The two cases should be examined separately, and nothing in one is evidence in the other.

II. The honors and commemorations

5. According to the Universal Lithuanian Encyclopedia ([VLE](#)):

- the Grand Cross of the Order of the Cross of Vytis, 1997, posthumously;
- volunteer-soldier status (*kario savanorio statusas*), 1997, posthumously;
- the rank of major, 1998, posthumously.

6. The decree, order and status decision, with their numbers and dates, have not been obtained (Annex 1, item 3). Other public commemorations lie outside presidential competence and are listed for context only: the Seimas declared 2021 the Year of Juozas Lukša-Daumantas; a square in Vilnius bears his name; a street and a gymnasium in Garliava are named for him; a memorial cross stands at Pabartupis (1999) and a monument at Liubavas (2021).

7. He was born on 4 August 1921 in Juodbūdis, Veiveriai rural district. The Encyclopedia records that this date was corrected in 2020 from records in the Lithuanian Central State Archives; the Centre's 2014 letter gives 10 August. He was killed in an MGB ambush at Pabartupis on 4 September 1951.

III. The grounds for suspicion

8. In letter No. 13R-81 of 27 March 2014, signed by Director General Teresė Birutė Burauskaitė and addressed to the Vilnius police in material No. 10-9-00920-13, the Centre summarized the accusation in its item 6 ([public transcription](#)). Jewish authors, it wrote, identify Lukša as a participant in the killings at the *Lietūkis* garage on 27 June 1941. According to the Centre's summary, Alex Faitelson states that Lukša was recognized as a participant by an eyewitness, Jonas Barškėtis, at a meeting with the writer Ilya Ehrenburg in autumn 1944, and that other witnesses, whom Faitelson did not name, also identified him. The Centre cited Melamed, *Lithuania: Crime and Punishment*, No. 6 (1999), p. 104, and Faitelson, *Ненасилившиеся* (2001), pp. 39–40. It also summarized the memoir of the former Soviet security officer Nachman Dushanski, who wrote that someone in the hall at the Ehrenburg meeting recognized Lukša as a participant in the garage killings.

9. The Centre reported, in the same item, Faitelson's statement that Barškėtis kept a notebook in which he listed Lithuanians who had killed Jews. If such a notebook survives in any archive, it is the most important single record in this case.

10. The Encyclopedia now states that from 1941 Lukša belonged to the Lithuanian Activist Front (LAF). The Centre's historian dated his LAF oath to 4 March 1941 in [Genocidas ir rezistencija](#) (2020). In 2020 Arvydas Anušauskas, then a member of the Seimas, [wrote](#) that Lukša's link to the LAF ran only through a five-student group, without membership; and the Chairman of the International Commission, Emanuelis Zingeris, [stated](#) that he could not be identified as a leader or active member of the LAF. LAF membership is not evidence that he took part in any killing, and I do not offer it as such. I raise it because the State's own institutions have contradicted each other on the one 1941 fact its own encyclopedia asserts, and an independent examination should resolve it.

IV. What is in his favor, and one disputed word

11. In his favor, the Centre reported in 2014 that it had searched and found no further data placing Lukša in the garage. It cited his 1941 NKGB criminal file (Lithuanian Special Archives, f. K-1, ap. 58, b. 13563/3): arrested on 5 June 1941 as a member of a resistance group, he was released from

the Kaunas hard-labor prison in the first days of the war (file sheet 26). It cited his brother Antanas Lukša's recollection that the two met in Kaunas on 23 June 1941 and walked home to Juodbūdis, where Juozas stayed about a month. The Centre's historian later argued, in 2020, that Dushanski names no immediate witness. The survivor accounts are retrospective; I know of no contemporaneous 1941 record naming Lukša in connection with the garage. He later took part in the anti-Nazi Lithuanian Front.

12. An examination should distinguish the dates fixed by the authenticated NKGB file from dates supplied by family recollection and from later institutional summaries. Those are different kinds of evidence, and the question of where he was on 27 June 1941 turns on them.

13. One word in the 2014 letter must be read in the original. The public transcription of item 6 states that Soviet security officers "*turėjo žinių*" — had information — that Lukša could have been connected with the garage events, and that they showed no interest in pursuing it. The transcriber marked that word, and the word introducing the passage, with "[sic]." The surrounding argument, which lists reasons for doubting Lukša's presence, could equally fit "*neturėjo*" — did not have. The two readings mean opposite things. I assert neither. My own published article of 10 September 2026 relied on the transcription. I ask that the original be produced so that the record, including mine, can be stated accurately.

14. The Centre's journal has also published the position that Lukša cannot be identified with the young man described in the testimony of the German officer Lothar von Bischoffshausen and the soldier Wilhelm Gunsilius. I have not read that article in full (Annex 1, item 5). Its reasoning should be examined on the same footing as the survivor accounts.

V. Systemic error

15. A historian of the Lithuanian Institute of History, Mindaugas Pocius, concluded in 2021, and in 2022 in the Centre's own journal, that partisan biographies were not examined before statuses, ranks and awards were granted, and that one may speak of systemic errors in state historical policy. The Centre's Director General said in 2015 that statuses were then granted in haste and that wartime service under the Nazis was not examined. The Centre had told the Lithuanian Jewish Community in 2012 that archival data existed on two such commanders. In 2015 the President annulled Pranas Končius's Cross of Vytis for participation in the Holocaust. My own submissions concerning Kazys Škirpa, Antanas Baltūsis-Žvejys, Jonas Semaška-Liepa, Juozas Šibaila-Merainis, Dominykas Jėčys-Ažuolis and Antanas Slučka-Šarūnas, and Viktoras Vitkauskas-Saidokas (VIT-PRES-001, of today's date) document the same pattern. I do not ask the President to infer guilt from the pattern. I ask that the pattern be recognized as the reason this case requires independent examination.

16. The Končius decision of September 2015 shows that a posthumous Cross of Vytis can be, and has been, withdrawn for participation in the Holocaust. The competence exists under Article 84(22) of the Constitution and the Law on State Awards (No. IX-957), including Articles 9(3), 18(1) and 30. I do not suggest that the grounds in Article 30 require a criminal conviction, and I do not ask the President to decide the legal question in advance of the facts.

17. The decisions of 1997 and 1998 for Lukša fall within the period to which the Director General's 2015 statement refers. The survivor accounts were published in 1999 and 2001, after the honors, and were before the Centre by 2014 at the latest.

VI. The records I ask the President to obtain

18. I ask the President's Office to obtain the following, or to invite their holders to release them to the examination:

- **Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania:** a certified copy of letter No. 13R-81 of 27 March 2014, preserving the exact text of item 6; the record of the search the Centre reported in item 6, with copies of the witness accounts, lists and other sources it examined; any later review of Lukša's case arising from the 2014 correspondence; and, if the Centre recognized the 1997 status, that decision with its grounds and the documents considered, including whether service in 1941 was examined.
- **Vilnius police:** if the Centre cannot produce it, the copy of letter No. 13R-81 received in material No. 10-9-00920-13.
- **Lithuanian Special Archives:** copies of f. K-1, ap. 58, b. 13563/3, in particular sheets 1 and 26; any file on Jonas Barškėtis, including any notebook or statement listing perpetrators; any Soviet investigative material on the *Lietūkis* garage killings that names participants.
- **Prosecutor General's Office:** whether the files of investigations into the *Lietūkis* garage killings conducted since 1990 name Juozas Lukša, and in what connection.
- **Office of the President:** the 1997 decree conferring the Grand Cross of the Cross of Vytis, with its number, the nomination, the proposer and any State Awards Council advice.
- **Ministry of National Defence:** the 1998 instrument conferring the rank of major, with the proposal and supporting file.
- **Sources outside Lithuania:** Melamed, *Lithuania: Crime and Punishment*, No. 6 (1999), p. 104; Faitelson, *Непокорившиеся* (2001), pp. 39–40, and the corresponding passage of the English edition (2006); the papers of Ilya Ehrenburg concerning his 1944 meeting in Kaunas; and United States intelligence records concerning Lukša's missions of 1947–1951.

VII. Procedure, conflicts and cooperation

19. I respectfully propose the procedure I have proposed in my other applications, so that like cases are handled alike:

- the Chancellor of State Orders certifies each honor and produces the original decree, the nomination and any advice of the State Awards Council;
- the State Awards Council advises within its competence;
- the President invites the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania to assess the historical question, through historians screened for conflicts of interest and nominated by the Vilnius University Faculty of History and the Lithuanian Institute of History;
- if the Commission declines, the President invites those two academic bodies to assess the question directly, and records the reasons for any refusal;
- the President reaches a separate, reasoned decision on each honor.

20. The Centre wrote the 2014 letter, has published its own historian's defense of Lukša, and has led public commemoration of him. It should provide its sources and reply, but it should not appoint, supervise, edit or veto findings about its own work.

21. I ask that, once an examination formally begins, its terms and reviewers be announced, and that the announcement state that no finding of guilt is implied. I ask that the methodology, the source inventory, any meaningful dissent and the reasoned findings be published, subject to lawful restrictions.

22. I offer my cooperation. I will forward any record that comes into my hands, whether it favors or burdens the subject, subject to the terms of the holding archives and to data-protection rules. I am not a lawyer; the legal references in this application are offered for orientation, not as legal advice.

VIII. Relief requested

- Relief 1. As a first step, before any determination is made, obtain the original of the Centre's letter No. 13R-81 of 27 March 2014 and the witness accounts on which the accusation rests, and provide them for independent examination and, so far as the law allows, to me.
- Relief 2. Register this application separately and acknowledge it in writing with its registration number and date.
- Relief 3. Name the office or official coordinating its examination.
- Relief 4. Have the Chancellor of State Orders certify the Grand Cross of the Cross of Vytis conferred in 1997 and produce the original decree, nomination file and any State Awards Council advice.
- Relief 5. Obtain the records listed in Section VI, or invite their holders to release them to the examination, and disclose to me whatever can lawfully be disclosed.
- Relief 6. Invite an independent historical assessment as proposed in paragraph 19, with conflict-screened reviewers.
- Relief 7. Announce the terms of any examination, stating that no finding of guilt is implied.
- Relief 8. If participation in the persecution or murder of Jews is established, withdraw the Cross of Vytis under the Law on State Awards, and invite the Minister of National Defence and the body that recognized the volunteer-soldier status to review the rank and the status within their competence.
- Relief 9. If it is not established, issue a reasoned decision stating what was examined and why.
- Relief 10. Where any step lies outside presidential competence, state so in a reasoned reply and identify the competent authority.
- Relief 11. Reply within the time set by Article 10(4) of the Law on Public Administration, or give an interim reply with an expected date.

Respectfully,

Grant Arthur Gochin
Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania
22 October 2026

Distribution — principal addressees and additional recipients. Principal addressee: President of the Republic of Lithuania, through the Chancellor of State Orders and the State Awards Council — kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt. Co-addressee: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania — urm@urm.lt. Additional recipients: Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania — centras@genocid.lt; Director, Lithuanian Institute of History — istorija@istorija.lt; Dean, Vilnius University Faculty of History — if@if.vu.lt; Head of Lithuania's IHRA Delegation — through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Chair, Lithuanian Jewish Community — info@lzb.lt. Additional recipients receive this application for information and possible independent consideration. They are not asked to predetermine findings, and their inclusion does not make them co-applicants.

Annex 1 — Sources not yet verified

This application asks the State to investigate. It is not a certified study. In the interest of full disclosure, the following points in it rest on sources I have not yet been able to verify or obtain in original form. None is presumed to support either side.

- Item 1. Paragraphs 8 and 13: Letter No. 13R-81 has been read in full only as the transcription published by Donatas Glodenis on dg.lapas.info (12 March 2016). The reading "turėjo" or "neturėjo" in item 6 is unresolved.
- Item 2. Paragraph 8: Melamed, No. 6, p. 104, and Faitelson (2001), pp. 39–40, have been read only as the Centre summarized them. Faitelson's English edition (2006), pp. 33–34, is cited by his son, Yakov Faitelson, as the place of the account ([2020 statement](#)) and has not been read.
- Item 3. Paragraph 6: The numbers and exact dates of the 1997 decree, the 1997 status decision and the 1998 rank instrument have not been obtained, nor has the body that recognized the status.
- Item 4. Paragraph 14: The Centre's journal article on the Bischoffshausen and Gunsilius testimony, *Genocidas ir rezistencija* 2021, No. 2(50), has been seen only in excerpt.
- Item 5. Paragraph 11: The Centre's historian's 2020 article is cited from its published abstract and my reading of September 2026; the argument that Barškėtis was himself in custody in late June 1941, which I understand that work to make, has not been rechecked against the full text.
- Item 6. Not yet checked: whether any relative of Juozas Lukša holds state office.



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G. Gochin

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Grant Arthur Gochin
Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania
10900 Winnetka Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311, USA
+1 818-625-6513 · ggochin@gmail.com

22 October 2026
Reference: VIT-PRES-001

His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda
President of the Republic of Lithuania
Through the Chancellor of State Orders and the State Awards Council
S. Daukanto a. 3, LT-01122 Vilnius · kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt

Application for investigation of the state honors of Viktoras Vitkauskas-Saidokas (Karijotas), 1920–1951

Your Excellency,

I. What I ask

1. I ask the President to have it investigated whether Viktoras Vitkauskas-Saidokas, posthumously awarded the Cross of Vytis in 1998, is the man a Holocaust survivor and historian named as the murderer of Rabbi Zalman Osovsky in Vilijampolė on 26 June 1941. The allegation is not mine. It is recorded in a letter of the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania of 27 March 2014, which said the Centre's research was continuing and that the claim might be confirmed or refuted. I have found no published result in the twelve years since.
2. The first question is identity: whether the man named in that account is the decorated partisan at all. Paragraph 10 sets out why that is not established. The second question is conduct. I suspect, on the State's own record, that Viktoras Vitkauskas-Saidokas may have been a perpetrator of the Holocaust. If it is established both that he is the man named and that he took part in the persecution or murder of Jews, I ask that his Cross of Vytis be withdrawn and that the competent authorities review his rank and status.
3. This is a request for investigation, not a completed or certified historical study. The sources I have not yet been able to verify are disclosed in Annex 1; each is a reason for the investigation I request, not a premise of it.

II. The honors

4. According to the [biography](#) by Rūta Trimonienė published on partizanai.org, and the [entry](#) in the Universal Lithuanian Encyclopedia (VLE):
 - volunteer-soldier status (*kario savanorio statusas*), recognized on 22 December 1997, posthumously; the issuing body is not stated in either source (Annex 1, item 4);
 - the rank of major, by order of the Minister of National Defence of 13 May 1998, posthumously;

- the Order of the Cross of Vytis, 3rd degree (now the Commander's Cross), by decree of the President of the Republic of 18 May 1998, posthumously.

5. He was born on 1 August 1920 in Vencloviškiai, Čekiškė rural district, Kaunas county. He joined the partisans of the Tauras district in August 1946, became commander of the Tauras district in 1949–1950, and was killed in combat with MGB troops near Endrikliai, Šakiai district, on 2 February 1951. His burial place is unknown.

III. The grounds for suspicion

6. In letter No. 13R-81 of 27 March 2014, signed by Director General Teresė Birutė Burauskaitė and addressed to the Vilnius police in material No. 10-9-00920-13 ([public transcription](#)), the Centre listed "Viktoras Vitkauskas–Saidokas" among postwar partisans named in lists of alleged perpetrators published by Joseph Melamed in *Lithuania: Crime and Punishment*, No. 6 (1999). In item 7 it summarized Alex Faitelson, *Henокорувившеся* (Tel Aviv, 2001), p. 26. As the letter is publicly transcribed, the Centre wrote that, according to Faitelson, during the Viliampolė pogroms of 26 June 1941 "*buvęs Lietuvos kariuomenės leitenantas Viktoras Vitkauskas rabinui Zalmanui Osovskiui kardu nukirto galvą*" — a former Lithuanian army lieutenant, Viktoras Vitkauskas, cut off Rabbi Zalman Osovsky's head with a sword. It added that a few days later Vitkauskas enlisted in the police battalion led by K. Šimkus, and that after the war he became commander of the Tauras partisan district.

7. The Centre stated that it had not found data confirming the claim in the sources it had examined, that its research on the Melamed lists was continuing, and that the claim might be confirmed or refuted by further research. Both the honor and the allegation were therefore before the State by 2014 at the latest. The honor was conferred in 1998, before that notice. The absence of a published result does not show that no research was done; it means that any outcome has not been made known. I ask what the continuing research found, or that the Centre state that none was done.

8. The murder of Rabbi Osovsky is not in doubt. Rabbi Ephraim Oshry, a survivor of the Kaunas ghetto, described it in *The Annihilation of Lithuanian Jewry*: the rabbi was bound, his head laid on an open volume of the Talmud and severed, and his wife and son were murdered. Who did it is the question.

9. The Encyclopedia states that during the Nazi occupation (1941–1944) Vitkauskas worked as a bookkeeper at the Kaunas factory *Kaspinas*. That places him in Kaunas in 1941. It proves nothing about what he did there.

IV. What is in his favor, and what must be resolved first

10. The identification is not established, and I say so plainly. Faitelson, as reported by the Centre, describes "a former Lithuanian army lieutenant." The national biographies describe a civilian: schooling at the Vilkija gymnasium, the Belvedere dairy and livestock school and bookkeeping courses; a first military grade as a junior NCO after partisan training in August 1947; and a partisan lieutenant's rank only in February 1949. He was 20 years old in June 1941. Either Faitelson misdescribed the man's rank, or he meant a different Viktoras Vitkauskas, or the biographies omit prewar service. Original records can decide which.

11. The chronology of the battalion also requires checking. The national labor protection (TDA) battalion was announced in Kaunas on 28 June 1941, and Kazys Šimkus took command of it only

after 24 July 1941. A man who enlisted "a few days" after 26 June would not then have joined a battalion "led by Šimkus," unless the account names the battalion by its later commander.

12. The two national biographies disagree about his wartime employment. The Encyclopedia gives 1941–1944; Ms. Trimonienė places the *Kaspinas* position in 1944 and is otherwise silent about 1941–1943. Neither cites a personnel record.

13. In his favor: the only allegation I have found is a single retrospective account, whose witness is not identified in the material I have read; the Centre reported in 2014 that it had found no confirmation; according to Ms. Trimonienė, he left Kaunas for the partisans in 1946 after Soviet security tried to recruit him as an agent; and he died fighting Soviet forces. These facts must be weighed. They do not answer the question the Centre itself left open.

14. A single record could resolve much of this: a TDA enlistment roll or personnel card for a Viktoras Vitkauskas born in 1920, from late June or July 1941. Its presence would corroborate the account at its most checkable point. Its absence from complete rolls would weigh against it. I ask that the holding archive state whether the rolls are complete.

V. Systemic error

15. A historian of the Lithuanian Institute of History, Mindaugas Pocius, concluded in 2021, and in 2022 in the Centre's own journal, that partisan biographies were not examined before statuses, ranks and awards were granted, and that one may speak of systemic errors in state historical policy. The Centre's Director General said in 2015 that statuses were then granted in haste and that wartime service under the Nazis was not examined. The Centre had told the Lithuanian Jewish Community in 2012 that archival data existed on two such commanders. In 2015 the President annulled Pranas Končius's Cross of Vytis for participation in the Holocaust. My own submissions concerning Kazys Škirpa, Antanas Baltūsis-Žvejys, Jonas Semaška-Liepa, Juozas Šibaila-Merainis, Dominykas Jėčys-Ažuolis and Antanas Slučka-Šarūnas document the same pattern. I do not ask the President to infer guilt from the pattern. I ask that the pattern be recognized as the reason this case requires independent examination.

16. The Končius decision of September 2015 shows that a posthumous Cross of Vytis can be, and has been, withdrawn for participation in the Holocaust. The competence exists under Article 84(22) of the Constitution and the Law on State Awards (No. IX-957), including Articles 9(3), 18(1) and 30. I do not suggest that the grounds in Article 30 require a criminal conviction, and I do not ask the President to decide the legal question in advance of the facts.

17. The volunteer-soldier status of Vitkauskas-Saidokas was recognized on 22 December 1997, the same date my research records for the status of Jonas Semaška-Liepa. I draw no conclusion from the date. It is a reason to examine how the 1997 decisions were prepared.

VI. The records I ask the President to obtain

18. I ask the President's Office to obtain the following, or to invite their holders to release them to the examination:

- **Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania:** a certified copy of letter No. 13R-81 of 27 March 2014, with the police inquiry it answered; every record of the research described as continuing in item 7, including assignments, searches, interim and final findings, and correspondence with police or prosecutors, or a statement that none was done;

any file the Centre holds on Viktoras Vitkauskas (born 1 August 1920); and, if the Centre recognized the 1997 status, that decision with its grounds and the documents considered, including whether service in 1941–1944 was examined.

- **Lithuanian Central State Archives:** enlistment rolls and personnel records of the TDA battalion and its successor police battalions for June–August 1941, for any Viktoras Vitkauskas; personnel records of the Kaunas factory *Kaspinas* for 1941–1944.
- **Lithuanian Special Archives:** any criminal, operational or filtration file naming Viktoras Vitkauskas (born 1920), including MGB material on the engagement of 2 February 1951, and any Soviet file that raised his conduct in 1941.
- **Office of the President:** the decree of 18 May 1998 conferring the Cross of Vytis, with its number, the nomination, the proposer and any State Awards Council advice.
- **Ministry of National Defence:** the order of 13 May 1998 conferring the rank of major, with the proposal and supporting file.
- **Military archive holdings and the Vytautas the Great War Museum:** War School graduation lists for 1936–1940 and interwar officer registers, for any Viktoras Vitkauskas; the source of his entry in *Lietuvos kariuomenės karininkai 1918–1953*, vol. 8 (2008).
- **Libraries outside Lithuania:** Faitelson, *Henокопирующиеся* (2001), p. 26, including the exact Russian term the Centre rendered as "lieutenant," and the corresponding passage of the English edition, *The Truth and Nothing But the Truth* (2006); the entry concerning Vitkauskas in Melamed, *Lithuania: Crime and Punishment*, No. 6 (1999); Yad Vashem testimonies concerning the murder of Rabbi Osovsky.

VII. Procedure, conflicts and cooperation

19. I respectfully propose the procedure I have proposed in my other applications, so that like cases are handled alike:

- the Chancellor of State Orders certifies each honor and produces the original decree, the nomination and any advice of the State Awards Council;
- the State Awards Council advises within its competence;
- the President invites the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania to assess the historical question, through historians screened for conflicts of interest and nominated by the Vilnius University Faculty of History and the Lithuanian Institute of History;
- if the Commission declines, the President invites those two academic bodies to assess the question directly, and records the reasons for any refusal;
- the President reaches a separate, reasoned decision on each honor.

20. The Centre wrote the 2014 letter and holds the research it described as continuing. It should provide its sources and reply, but it should not appoint, supervise, edit or veto findings about its own work.

21. I ask that, once an examination formally begins, its terms and reviewers be announced, and that the announcement state that no finding of guilt is implied. I ask that the methodology, the source inventory, any meaningful dissent and the reasoned findings be published, subject to lawful restrictions.

22. I offer my cooperation. I will forward any record that comes into my hands, whether it favors or burdens the subject, subject to the terms of the holding archives and to data-protection rules. I am not a lawyer; the legal references in this application are offered for orientation, not as legal advice.

VIII. Relief requested

- Relief 1. Register this application separately and acknowledge it in writing with its registration number and date.
- Relief 2. Name the office or official coordinating its examination.
- Relief 3. Have the Chancellor of State Orders certify the Cross of Vytis conferred by the decree of 18 May 1998 and produce the original decree, nomination file and any State Awards Council advice.
- Relief 4. Obtain the records listed in Section VI, or invite their holders to release them to the examination, and disclose to me whatever can lawfully be disclosed.
- Relief 5. Invite an independent historical assessment as proposed in paragraph 19, with conflict-screened reviewers.
- Relief 6. Announce the terms of any examination, stating that no finding of guilt is implied.
- Relief 7. If it is established both that Viktoras Vitkauskas-Saidokas is the man Faitelson named and that he took part in the persecution or murder of Jews, withdraw the Cross of Vytis under the Law on State Awards, and invite the Minister of National Defence and the body that recognized the volunteer-soldier status to review the rank and the status within their competence.
- Relief 8. If it is not established, issue a reasoned decision stating what was examined and why.
- Relief 9. Where any step lies outside presidential competence, state so in a reasoned reply and identify the competent authority.
- Relief 10. Reply within the time set by Article 10(4) of the Law on Public Administration, or give an interim reply with an expected date.

Respectfully,

Grant Arthur Gochin
Citizen of the Republic of Lithuania
22 October 2026

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- Item 1. Paragraph 6: Letter No. 13R-81 has been read in full only as the transcription published by Donatas Glodenis on dg.lapas.info (12 March 2016). The original is requested in Section VI.
- Item 2. Paragraphs 6 and 10: Faitelson, *Непокорившиеся* (2001), p. 26, has not been read. The Russian term rendered "lieutenant" in the Centre's summary has not been checked, and the page of the English edition carrying the passage has not been identified.
- Item 3. Paragraph 6: The Melamed entry concerning Vitkauskas has not been isolated. The Centre's letter cites pages 44, 86, 89, 96, 111, 120 and 137 of No. 6 for a group of names together.
- Item 4. Paragraph 4: The body that recognized the volunteer-soldier status of 22 December 1997 is not stated in the sources read.
- Item 5. Paragraph 8: Rabbi Oshry's passage has been read only through quotation in secondary sources, which do not name the killers.
- Item 6. Paragraph 10: The entry in *Lietuvos kariuomenės karininkai 1918–1953*, vol. 8, has not been read, and War School lists have not been checked.
- Item 7. Paragraph 4: The numbers of the decree of 18 May 1998 and of the order of 13 May 1998 have not been obtained.
- Item 8. Paragraph 11: The dates of the TDA battalion's announcement and of Kazys Šimkus's assumption of command are taken from secondary reference works. Stasys Knezys's study of the battalion (*Genocidas ir rezistencija*, 2000, No. 8) has not been read.
- Item 9. Paragraph 17: The status date of Jonas Semaška-Liepa is taken from my own research file for that case; its issuing body is also unverified.
- Item 10. Not yet checked: whether any relative of Viktoras Vitkauskas holds state office.