

Grant Arthur Gochin
10900 Winnetka Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311
USA

[To:] Center for the Study of the Genocide and Resistance of Residents of Lithuania
Didžioji street no. 17/1, Vilnius, Lithuania

I am contacting you regarding the Genocide and Resistance Center's publications which claim the activities of Juozas Brazaitis-Ambrazevičius who led the Lithuanian Provisional Government of 1941 (taking over power from Kazys Škirpa) "were investigated fully by the US Congress and US Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1974, and Juozas Brazaitis-Ambrazevičius was completely exonerated."

This statement was published at the following publicly available sources:

Your agency's website, where you published a public rebuttal to my letter about changing your historical finding (July 18, 2018, <http://genocid.lt/centras/lt/2969/a/>)

The article on Delfi.lt called "Genocido tyrimo centras nepasiduos vulgariam spaudimui" [The Genocide Research Center Won't Give In to Vulgar Pressure], (March 8, 2019, <https://www.delfi.lt/news/ringas/politics/lggrtc-genocido-tyrimo-centras-nepasiduos-vulgariam-spaudimui.d?id=80566671>)

as well as via private sites and means in supplying answers in writing to the Office of Parliamentary Ombudsman.

These statements concerning the vindication and rehabilitation of Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis by United States political and justice institutions are not true.

According to the information and documents we possess, the activities of this person was investigated by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service, but the investigation was dropped following his death in 1974. No decision regarding criminally charging or exonerating this person was adopted and the investigation was halted because of this person's death.

According to historians, no official investigation at the US Congress of Immigration Service was conducted. ¹ Since no investigation was conducted, no exonerating decision was made. This is confirmed in US House of Representatives representative and Judiciary Committee member Joshua Eilberg in his letter of January 13, 1975, addressed to vice-president of the Lithuanian-American Community Stanley A. Gecys. The Congress member's letter said:

"Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Immigration and Naturalization Service which states that Juozas Brazaitis and Jonas Slepetyš have been removed from the active list of Alleged Nazi War Criminals residing in the United States and that the investigations relating to them have been stopped. These actions are based upon the INS's determination that there is no evidence of anti-Jewish or pro-Nazi activities on their part."

I consulted with US attorneys who provided a legal explanation of the investigation and dropping of this case. The Juozas Brazaitis case was not heard in the US Congress and there is no exoneration in the USA. The case was investigated by the Immigration Service which halted the

¹ <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007105>

case because of a lack of information following this person's death, since there were laws in the United States then allowing for the laying of charges after a person's death. As a result of these legal findings, I contacted the US Congress.

There is an enormous difference between exoneration and dropping a case because of the suspect's death and a lack of evidence, but the Genocide Center doesn't make that differentiation and is publishing tendentious disinformation for the public.

The fact Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis was not wholly exonerated and rehabilitated by US institutions is confirmed in the August 25, 2019, letter by US Congress member Brad Sherman addressed to the prime minister of Lithuania and the Lithuanian ambassador to the United States. In the letter the Congress member condemned this explanation of history presented by the Genocide Center and described in detail the real situation. He said the Congress was not able to interrogate J. A. Brazaitis because he was placed in a hospital following a fourth heart attack, and died on October 24, 1974. The member of Congress said the investigation was halted because of the man's death and also because documents in the Soviet jurisdiction which testify to Brazaitis's complicity in the Holocaust (Regulations on the Status of Jews, the order for forming the TDA battalion, orders for financing the TDA and so on) were not accessible in 1974. The member of Congress officially confirmed the statement I made in my earlier communications that Brazaitis was not wholly exonerated by the US Congress.

The above-indicated publicly-accessible publications by the Genocide Center present false information on a comprehensive investigation of Brazaitis's activities and his exoneration. This information is a mendacious interpretation of the facts not supported by documents and misinforming the public, and is forbidden under article 19, part 2 of the Lithuanian Law on the Provision of Information to the Public.

Taking the facts explained above into consideration, I demand this false information be removed from public access stating "Brazaitis's activities were comprehensively investigated by the US Congress and the US Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1974, and Brazaitis was completely exonerated."

Appended:

1. US Congress member and Judiciary Committee member Joshua Eilberg's letter of January 13, 1975.
2. US Congress member Brad Sherman's letter to the Lithuanian prime minister of September 25, 2019.
3. Letter from members of Congress to Lithuanian prime minister of September 25, 2012.

Respectfully,

[signed]

Grant Arthur Gochin
November 26, 2020

Lietuvos gyventojų genocido ir rezistencijos tyrimo centras

Didžioji g. 17/1, Vilnius

Kreipiuosi dėl Genocido ir rezistencijos centro publikacijų, kuriose yra teigiama, kad 1941 m. laikinajai vyriausybei vadovavusio Juozo Brazaičio-Ambrasevičiaus (perėmusio valdžią iš K.Škirpos), „veikla 1974 m. buvo išsamiai tirta JAV Kongrese ir JAV Imigracijos ir natūralizacijos tarnyboje, ir J. Ambrasevičius - Brazaitis buvo visiškai išteisintas.“

Nurodytas teiginys buvo publikuotas šiose viešose prieigose:

Jūsų įstaigos internetinėje svetainėje, publikuojant viešą atsišaukimą į mano kreipimąsi dėl istorinės išvados pakeitimo (2018-07-18 <http://genocid.lt/centras/lt/2969/a/>)

Delfi.lt straipsnyje „*Genocido tyrimo centras nepasiduos vulgariam spaudimui*“, (2019 m. kovo 8 d. Delfi.lt nuoroda <https://www.delfi.lt/news/ringas/politics/lggrtc-genocido-tyrimo-centras-nepasiduos-vulgariam-spaudimui.d?id=80566671>)

taip pat neviešose prieigose, teikiant atsakymus raštu Seimo kontrolieriaus įstaigai.

Teiginiai dėl Juozo Ambrasevičiaus-Brazaičio išteisinimo ir reabilitavimo JAV politinėse ir teisėsaugos institucijose neatitinka tikrovės. Sutinkamai su turimais duomenimis ir dokumentais šio asmens veikla buvo tirta JAV Imigracijos ir natūralizacijos tarnyboje, tačiau byla buvo nutraukta po jo mirties 1974 m. Sprendimas dėl šio asmens apkaltinimo ar išteisinimo nebuvo priimtas, tyrimas nutrauktas dėl asmens mirties.

Istorikų žiniomis Juozo Brazaičio atžvilgiu JAV Kongrese ir tarnyboje nebuvo atliekamas joks oficialus tyrimas¹. Kadangi nebuvo atliekamas tyrimas - nebuvo priimtas joks išteisinamasis sprendimas. Tai patvirtina, pridėdamas JAV Kongreso atstovų rūmų, teisėtvarkos komiteto nario Joshua Eilberg 1975-01-13 laiškas adresuotas Amerikos Lietuvių bendruomenės vice-prezidentui Stanley A.Gecys. Laiške kongreso narys informuoja, kad:

“JAV Imigracijos ir Natūralizacijos Tarnyba išbraukė Juozas Brazaitis ir Jonas Slepetyš iš sąrašo JAV reziduojančių asmenų įtariamų nacių karo nusikaltimais, tyrimas jų atžvilgiu buvo sustabdytas. Šie veiksmai yra paremti tarnybos nuostata, kad nėra duomenų apie šių asmenų dalyvavimą pro-nacistinėje ar antisemitinėje veikloje. “

Kreipiausi į JAV advokatus, kurie pateikė teisinį bylos nagrinėjimo ir nutraukimo išaiškinimą. Juozo Brazaičio byla JAV kongrese nebuvo nagrinėta, o JAV jo neišteisino. Byla buvo nagrinėta

¹ <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007105>

Migracijos tarnyboje, kuri būtų sustabdė dėl duomenų stokos po šio asmens mirties, kadangi to meto JAV įstatymai nenumatė galimybės pateikti kaltinimus po asmens mirties. Šių išvadų pasekoje kreipiausi į JAV Kongresą.

Tarp išteisinimo ir bylos sustabdymo dėl asmens mirties ir duomenų stokos yra didelis skirtumas, tačiau Genocido centras tokio skirtumo nedaro ir publikuoja kryptingą visuomenės dezinformaciją.

Aplinkybę, kad Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis nebuvo visiškai išteisintas ir reabilituotas JAV institucijų patvirtina 2019-09-25 JAV Kongreso nario Brad Sherman laiškas adresuotas Lietuvos Ministrui pirmininkui ir Lietuvos ambasadoriui JAV. Laiške kongresmenas, smerkia tokį Genocido centro istorijos aiškinimą ir detaliai aprašo tikrąją situaciją. Nurodo, kad J.A.Brazaičio Kongresui nepavyko apklausti dėl to, kad jis buvo paguldytas į ligoninę ištikus ketvirtam širdies smūgiui, o 1974 m. spalio 24 d. mirė. Anot kongresmeno tyrimas buvo nutrauktas dėl asmens mirties ir dėl to, kad 1974 m. nebuvo prieinami sovietų žinioje buvę dokumentai liudijantys J.A.Brazaičio prisidėjimą prie Holokausto (Žydų padėties nuostatai, įsakymas dėl TDA bataljono suformavimo, dėl TDA finansinio išlaikymo ir kiti). Kongresmenas oficialiai patvirtina, mano ankstesniuose komunikatuose išsakytą, teiginį, kad J.A.Brazaitis JAV Kongrese nebuvo visiškai išteisintas.

Aukščiau nurodytose, visuomenei prieinamose Genocido centro publikacijose yra pateikiama tikrovės neatitinkanti informacija apie išsamų J.A.Brazaičio veiklos tyrimą ir jo išteisinimą. Tokia informacija yra melagingas faktų interpretavimas, nepagrįstas dokumentais, klaidinantis visuomenę ir draudžiamas Visuomenės informavimo įstatymo 19 str. 2 d.

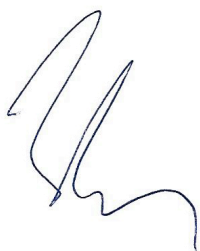
Atsižvelgiant į išdėstytas aplinkybes reikalauju, pašalinti iš viešosios prieigos tikrovės neatitinkančią informaciją, kad "J. Ambrazevičiaus - Brazaičio veikla 1974 m. buvo išsamiai tirta JAV Kongrese ir JAV Imigracijos ir natūralizacijos tarnyboje, ir J. Ambrazevičius - Brazaitis buvo visiškai išteisintas."

PRIDEDAMA:

1. 1975-01-13 JAV Kongreso atstovų rūmų, teisėtvarkos komiteto nario Joshua Eilberg laiškas.
2. 2019-09-25 JAV Kongreso nario Brad Sherman laiškas LR ministrui pirmininkui
3. 2012-09-25 JAV Kongreso narių laiškas LR ministrui pirmininkui

Pagarbiai,

Grant Arthur Gochin
2020 lapkričio 26 d.



NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, AND
INTERNATIONAL LAW

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Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

BARBAR J. CLINE, COUNSEL
ARTHUR P. EDGEE, JR., ASSISTANT COUNSEL
DONALD G. BEHN, ASSOCIATE COUNSEL
FRANCES P. GIBBY, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

2429 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515
January 13, 1975

Mr. Stanley A. Gecys
Executive Vice-President
Lithuanian-American Community of the U.S.A., Inc.
1004 Robinson Building
42 South 15th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Dear Mr. Gecys:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Immigration and Naturalization Service which states that Juozas Brazaitis and Jonas Slepetyts have been removed from the active list of Alleged Nazi War Criminals residing in the United States and that the investigations relating to them have been stopped.

These actions are based upon the INS's determination that there is no evidence of anti-Jewish or pro-Nazi activities on their part.

I trust that this document will serve to relieve the pressures and frustrations these two men and their friends have been living under because of the charges which had been brought against them.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Joshua Eilberg
JOSHUA EILBERG

JE:ut
Encls.

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818-501-9200

30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

September 25, 2019

Hon. Saulius Skvernelis
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania
In Care of: Hon. Rolandas Kriščiūnas
Ambassador the Republic of Lithuania
Embassy of Lithuania
2622 16th St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Re: Nazi-Era Lithuanian Leader Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis

Your Excellency,

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

As a result of recent statements issued by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, an agency of your government, I am writing to ask you to either provide specific and credible references to the exoneration and rehabilitation of Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, former Minister of Education and acting Prime Minister under the Provisional Government of Lithuania in 1941, or to publicly retract the Centre's claims for the misstatement of facts and misuse of U.S. Congressional documents in your government's efforts to address the history of the Holocaust in Lithuania.

On three separate occasions dating back to February 26, 2018, the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (LGGRTC) asserted that the United States Congress and the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) "completely exonerated" Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis for culpability in the murder of Jews in Lithuania.¹

The United States Department of Justice conducted an investigation into the allegation that from June 23, 1941 to July 12, 1941, during the life of the interim Provisional Government of Lithuania, Mr. Brazaitis, as Minister of Education and acting Prime Minister, "was responsible

¹ Letter Reference 55R-21, 14R-82; DELFI, "LGGRTC: The Genocide Research Center Will Not Stand Vulgar Pressure In Response to Mr. Vinokurui," March 8, 2019. Letter Reference 14R-53, dated February 26, 2018.

for the issuance and enforcement of repressive edicts against the Jewish minority.”² The letter sent from Commissioner Leonard Chapman, Jr. to Chairman Joshua Eilberg of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law in December 1974 states that in an attempt to elicit testimony from Mr. Brazaitis as to the activities of the Provisional Lithuanian Government, Mr. Brazaitis was unable to testify as he had sustained his fourth heart attack and was hospitalized. Mr. Brazaitis died on October 24, 1974. The letter then states that in the opinion of the review committee, “further investigation in these matters appeared unwarranted.”³ As a result, the Immigration and Naturalization Service determined to remove Mr. Brazaitis’ name from the active list of Alleged Nazi War Criminals residing in the United States. The U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Congressional Committees do not usually continue investigations after a subject has died; thus, they would have concluded the investigation without findings—exactly as the letter indicates.

Notably, the review of Mr. Brazaitis by the U.S. Department of Justice was cursory and was conducted only as a result of pressure by Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman of New York, a member of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law of which Mr. Eilberg was Chairman, to investigate and deport Nazis who had been offered protection by the U.S. government.⁴ In 1974, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was “ill-equipped” and made “half-attempts” to deport known Nazis, until a formal office was established for this purpose in the U.S. Department of Justice in 1979.⁵ In 1974, Congresswoman Holtzman herself accused the INS of conducting a “half-hearted, dilatory investigation” of more than 60 alleged Nazi war criminals and charged specifically that the investigation was headed by “three part-time bureaucrats without the background or authority to direct an investigation of this nature,” who failed to contact the German or Israeli governments for pertinent data, the National Archives in Washington, or Soviet Jews now in Israel who may have had pertinent information.⁶ Similar to a number of other known Nazi perpetrators who emigrated to the United States following World War II, Mr. Brazaitis gained entry to the United States as a result of his “operational value” for the Central Intelligence Agency.⁷

Since the United States Department of Justice conducted its investigations into Mr. Brazaitis’ responsibility for “repressive edicts against the Jewish minority,” key documents regarding the activities of the Provisional Lithuanian Government have been made public. In 2001, the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania historian Rytas Narvydas discovered and published the authentic minutes and decrees of the Provisional Government. In 1974, problematically, these documents were held by the Soviets. The volume included the “Regulations on the Situation of the Jews” with Brazaitis’ signature, which asserts that the Jews had exploited the Lithuanian nation economically for hundreds of years, had demoralized it, and

² U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Letter to Chairman Eilberg from Commissioner Chapman, Jr., December 1974.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Mr. Brazaitis was a “covert contact” of the Central Intelligence Agency.

⁵ Eric Lichtblau, *The Nazis Next Door*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014.

⁶ Joseph Polakoff, “INS Accused of Conducting Dilatory Probe of More than 60 War Criminals,” *Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletin*, May 21, 1974, http://pdfs.jta.org/1974/1974-05-21_098.pdf?_ga=2.142121586.1937063510.1569271901-1798217195.1563368735.

⁷ April 19, 1955, “Re-entry Permit for Juozas Brazaitis,” https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/BRAZAITIS%2C%20JUOZAS_0072.pdf.

in recent years, under the mantle of Bolshevism, had most widely developed their battle against Lithuania's independence and the Lithuanian nation. The Genocide and Resistance Research Centre also included the minutes from a meeting on July 5, 1941, in which Brazaitis and the Provisional Government approved requested funding for 824 members of the TDA Battalion and the concentration camp at Kaunas VII fort. From June 28 to July 6, the TDA Battalion murdered approximately 5,000 Jewish men, and held many Jewish women and children without food or water at Kaunas VII fort.

As the Immigration and Naturalization Service only considered the actions of the Provisional Government from June 23, 1941 to July 12, 1941, the approval of funding for the TDA Battalion and the conclusion of the "Regulations on the Situation of the Jews" were not considered as such actions fell outside of the designated time frame.

Finally, in 2005, the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania concluded their review of "the Persecution and Mass Murder of Lithuanian Jews during Summer and Fall of 1941."⁸ The Commission determined that the Provisional Government approved segregating the Jews of Lithuania and expropriating their property, and did not publicly disassociate itself from the murder of Lithuania's Jewish citizens. To this point, the Commission recognized the TDA Battalion as a "Responsible Agency" as a result of their participation in the killings of Jews. The Provisional Government funded the TDA. The Commission also concluded that the Provisional Government's approval of the "Regulations on the Situation of the Jews" was the most comprehensive expression of the Government's official anti-Semitism. Thus, there is no question as to Mr. Brazaitis' involvement in cementing Lithuania's anti-Semitic history and the considerable violence that took place before the arrival of the Germans.

I hope you will take concrete steps to demonstrate your government's commitment to accurate historical portrayal and recognize the darkest realities of the Holocaust.

Sincerely,



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress

CC: Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism
Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues

⁸ International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, "The Persecution and Mass Murder of Lithuanian Jews during Summer and Fall of 1941: Sources and Analysis," CONCLUSIONS, April 20, 2005.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2012

His Excellency Andrius Kubilius
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania
Gedimino Ave. 11
Lt – 01103 Vilnius
Lithuania

Dear Prime Minister Kubilius,

As Members of Congress, we are deeply committed to maintaining strong ties between the United States and Lithuania.

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the reburial of Juozas Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis, who served as the acting Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Lithuania from June to August 1941. Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis died in the United States in 1974 and was reburied with honors in Lithuania in May 2012 with a commemoration of his life and legacy.

We wish to share the pain and anger that this decision has caused Holocaust survivors and the wider Jewish community. Holocaust historian Dr. Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Center described the decision to rebury Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis as “an absolute outrage.”

Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis was the leader of the Provisional Government of Lithuania which was formed by the Lithuanian Activist Front (LAF). The LAF collaborated with the forces of Nazi Germany. An LAF essay stated, “The Lithuanian Activist Front, by restoring the new Lithuania, is determined to carry out an immediate and fundamental purging of the Lithuanian nation and its land of Jews, parasites and monsters....” The incitement to murder was vicious and unrelenting; Lithuanian Jews were murdered at an astonishingly rapid rate.

We believe that the reburial of Ambrazevičius-Brazaitis undermines efforts to counter anti-Semitism and to recognize the crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators.

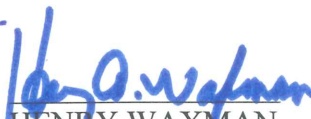
We hope you will take concrete steps to demonstrate your government’s commitment to accurate historical portrayal and recognize the darkest realities of the Holocaust.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



HENRY WAXMAN
Member of Congress



HOWARD BERMAN
Member of Congress



LIETUVOS GYVENTOJŲ GENOCIDO IR REZISTENCIJOS TYRIMO CENTRAS

Biudžetinė įstaiga, Didžioji g. 17/1, LT-01128 Vilnius tel. (8 5) 231 4139, faks. (8 5) 279 1033, el. p. centras@genocid.lt
Duomenys kaupiami ir saugomi Juridinių asmenų registre, kodas 191428780

Grant Arthur Gochin,
atstovaujama advokato Roko Rudzinsko
A. Mickevičiaus g. 14-2
LT-08119 Vilnius

2020-12-22 Nr. 14R-
Į 2020-11-26

DĖL INFORMACIJOS PATEIKIMO

Atsakydami į Jūsų pretenziją informuojame, kad Lietuvos gyventojų genocido ir rezistencijos tyrimo centras (toliau – Centras) negali išpildyti Jūsų reikalavimo dėl priežasčių, kurias Centras išsamiai nurodė atsakydamas Jums į šį klausimą 2018-10-11 ir 2019-01-02 atsakymuose. Papildomai pridėtas 2019 m. kongresmeno B. Shermano laiškas Ministrui Pirmininkui S. Skverneliui šiame kontekste vertintinas kaip politiko nuomonė, bet ne kaip naujas istorinis šaltinis ar nauja istorinių įvykių aplinkybė.

Generalinis direktorius

prof. dr. Adas Jakubauskas

Translation:

"In response to your claim, we would like to inform you that the Lithuanian Genocide and Resistance Research Center (hereinafter - the Center) cannot fulfill your request due to the reasons given by the Center in detail in answering this question in its answers of 11/10/2011 and 02/09/2019. Added 2019 Congressman B. Sherman's letter to Prime Minister S. Skvernelis is to be seen in this context as the opinion of a politician, but not as a new historical source or a new circumstance of historical events."