

Adv. Faina Kukliansky
Chairwoman
Jewish Community of Lithuania
Pylimo str. 4
01117 Vilnius
Lithuania

London, 17 June 2021
Ref. № 2106104

Dear Faina:

On behalf of the European Jewish Congress and all its affiliated national Jewish communities, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the Lithuanian Jewish community on the 80th anniversary of the Gargždai massacre of 23 June 1941.

The massacre of Jews in Gargždai marked the beginning of the Holocaust in Lithuania and of the extermination of more than 200.000 Lithuanian Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators, resulting in the near-total destruction of Jewish life in the country.

We grieve for the loss of precious lives of children, women and men belonging to one of the most historic and symbolic Jewish communities in Europe, our beloved *Yerushalaim de Lita*. May their memories be a blessing.

Nothing will ever replace their loss. At the same time, I would like to commend you and your predecessors, and all those who have dedicated themselves to rebuilding Jewish life in Lithuania in the aftermath of unspeakable tragedy.

On this sorrowful anniversary, we call on all relevant authorities and all citizens of good faith to honour the memory of the murdered Jews of Lithuania, to uphold historical truth, and to reject these atrocities and the murderous ideology that motivated them.

Sincerely,



Dr. Moshe Kantor
President, European Jewish Congress