

February 23, 2024

Vilnius

Her Excellency Ingrida Šimonytė  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania  
Gedimino pr.11, LT-01103 Vilnius

Dear Prime Minister,

As we all recently celebrated Statehood Day and the values of freedom, democracy, and tolerance which independent Lithuania has always represented, we wish to bring to your attention the disturbing rise in antisemitic incidents which have occurred in recent weeks.

Our shared values compel us to address the current spate of antisemitic attacks. From the rocks thrown through Jewish community center windows in Vilnius and Siauliai, to the Nazi emblems painted on a Vilnius bridge and the former synagogue in Daugai, to the toppling of a statue honoring ghetto prisoners in Druskininkai, these incidents demonstrate a new and alarming pattern.

We look to senior Lithuanian government officials and members of parliament to speak up for the values of tolerance and inclusion, support the Jewish community, and publicly reinforce the government's determination that antisemitism and all forms of hate are incredibly harmful and unacceptable.


We hope that the police investigations currently underway into these incidents will bring swift results, and that police protection for Jewish sites such


as community centers, schools, and synagogues will increase to reflect the threat these incidents represent.

Thank you for giving your highest consideration to this request. We look forward to your response, and will be honored to stand with you in rejecting the intolerance of these criminal acts and championing the democratic values and ideals that bind our countries.

Respectfully,

  
Kara C. McDonald  
Ambassador of the United States of America to Lithuania

  
Hadas Wittenberg Silverstein  
Ambassador of the State of Israel to Lithuania

  
Dr. Cornelius Zimmermann  
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Lithuania

cc: Ms. Agnė Bilotaitė, Minister of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania  
Mr. Valdas Benkuskas, Mayor of Vilnius city  
Ms. Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania  
Mr. Artūras Visockas, Mayor of Šiauliai city  
Mr. Ričardas Malinauskas, Mayor of Druskininkai city  
Ms. Faina Kukliansky, Chairwoman of Lithuanian Jewish Community  
Mr. Sania Kerbelis, Chair of Šiauliai Jewish Community  
Mr. Naumas Gleizeris, Chair of Šiauliai Regional Jewish Community