ליטא של מעלה - גנזך
LITA SHEL MAALAH
Archive of Lithuanian Jewish Civilization
ע"ר 580540854

7/10/26

Greetings, Your Excellency, the Honorable President Gitanas Nausėda.

Subject: Bringing a Definitive End to the Šnipiškės Jewish Cemetery Saga – A Call for the Permanent Removal of the Issue from State and Municipal Agendas

Honorable Leaders,

Speaking on behalf of the legacy of generations, Torah luminaries, spiritual leaders, and the glorious Jewish community that shaped the identity of Vilnius—historically renowned as the "Jerusalem of Lithuania"—we address you today with an unequivocal and resolute demand: **The time has come to put a definitive, absolute end to the saga of the historic Šnipiškės Jewish cemetery, and to permanently remove this matter from the agenda of the Government, the Municipality, and all of their respective committees.**

This is no longer a matter of routine urban planning or administrative bureaucracy; it is an open wound and a profound, direct affront to the sentiments of the Jewish people worldwide. The recurring resurrection of this hallowed site for public, legal, or administrative deliberation constitutes a desecration of the memory and dignity of the tens of thousands of souls interred therein—among them towering Torah giants, most notably the *Chaye Adam*, zt"l. For the Jewish people, an ancestral resting place is a sacred and inviolable sanctuary admitting of no compromise, and repeated attempts to tamper with its fate evoke deep anguish and a searing sense of insult regarding the callous disregard shown toward the sanctity of the dead and our historical heritage.

Lithuania, and Vilnius in particular, aspire to uphold the standards of a civilized European nation respected within the international community—one that honors human rights, religious freedom, and mutual respect. These foundational values are continually tested by practical and moral attitudes toward the remaining vestiges of Jewish heritage on your soil. The persistent continuation of the Šnipiškės controversy casts a heavy shadow over these relations, creating a painful perception that the memory and eternal rest of Lithuanian Jewry are denied the elementary protection owed to all human beings.

We call upon you to exercise your leadership and authority, to take decisive action that once and for all renders any future debate on this issue obsolete, and to guarantee the absolute, irreversible sanctity and protection of this sacred site. Such a courageous and statesmanlike step will not only close a painful historical chapter but will also serve as a genuine expression of mutual respect, historical justice, and public integrity.

The Jewish people expect the leadership of Lithuania and the Municipality of Vilnius to demonstrate the highest moral sensitivity, unwavering resolve, and the wisdom to permanently clear this issue from the public agenda.

Respectfully and firmly yours,

Moshe Shalom Malachi

Chairman of the Board of Directors, "Lithuania on High" (Lita Shel Ma'alah) Archive

And the Members of the Board of Directors

Copies: Honorable Prime Minister of Lithuania: Mindaugas Sinkevičius
and Honorable Mayor of Vilnius: Valdas Benkunskas