

# The SHOAH

(HOLOCAUST)  
IN LITHUANIA



THE YIDDISH  
STATE JEWISH  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

# The SHOAH (HOLOCAUST) IN LITHUANIA

*Edited by Joseph Levinson*

THE VILNA GAON JEWISH STATE MUSEUM



VILNIUS 2006

## THE LAF AND THE FIRST ACTS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Information about how the government institutions of the Nazi occupation in Lithuania – district commissars, the Security Police and Security Service, the offices of the military commandants – enthusiastically carried out the Nazi program for the extermination of the Jews is, in essence, not new. Therefore, most of the documents in this chapter are about the role of the LAF (Lithuanian Activist Front) and the collaboration of Lithuanian administrative bodies and the police with the Nazis in perpetrating the Shoah in Lithuania – matters that are almost unknown to the general public.

As indicated by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania (Lietuvos gyventojų genocido ir rezistencijos tyrimo centras – LGGRTC) in a note to the Seimas of the Lithuanian Republic, “part of the LAF program drawn up in Berlin (mainly by Kazys Škirpa, Antanas Maceina, who was chairman of the ideological commission, and Antanas Valiukėnas) was notable for its anti-Jewishness. Its sixteenth article announced that: ‘The Lithuanian Activist Front revokes the hospitality accorded to the Jewish national minority in Lithuania,’ i.e. ‘proclaims it to be outside the bounds of the law.’”<sup>1</sup>

The appeals intended for Lithuania (and prepared mainly by Kazys Škirpa, who was leader of the LAF, and Bronys Raila, who was chairman of the propaganda commission) were saturated with National Socialist ideology and racist slurs concerning the Jews. The Jews were unconditionally identified with the Communists. They became the objects of appeals, posters, and caricatures full of the ugliest anti-Jewish insinuations, absurd accusations, and threats which spewed malice and hatred for the Jews.

That this agitation and propaganda reached Lithuania and that it was undoubtedly inspired by the LAF is even attested by the fact, indicated in the above-mentioned LGGRTC note to the Seimas of the Lithuanian Republic: “that the insurgents implemented the recommendation made in ‘Chapter VII: Carrying Out the Uprising’ of *Instructions for the Liberation of Lithuania*:

‘So that the Germans may distinguish the insurgents from the rest of the civilian population and not mistake them for armed local Communists, once the uprising has taken place, its participants shall put on their left arms white (cloth) bands with the letters T.D.A. (Tautinio darbo apsauga [National Work Guard]).’ White armbands were worn by most of the insurgents in various Lithuanian localities.”<sup>2</sup>

1 Akrodis, 2000, no. 9.

2 *loc. cit.*

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1. *Alinčia*, 2000, no. 9.

2. *LAC 01*.

Soon after the uprising, in a directive sent in July to the heads of districts and cities, to district boards and city mayors, the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Provisional Government, Jonas Šlepetys, gave instructions "to issue the appropriate decrees so that all literate partisans, riflemen... take pen in hand and describe the deportations of the people, the beginning of the war, the activities of the partisans, and the *Communist-Bolshevik-Jewish terror* [emphasis added]." As can be seen from this information, during the early days of the war an anti-Jewish mood was already dominant in some places, and violations of the elementary civil rights of Jews had begun. Naturally, this directive from a minister stirred up even greater anti-Jewish feeling and activity.

During the early days of the uprising in June 1941, efforts had already begun to re-establish the administrative apparatus that had functioned in Lithuania before the occupation, the organs of local government, and the police, all of which immediately became involved in the anti-Jewish actions being perpetrated by the Nazi occupational structures.

As soon as the Provisional Government began to function, it enacted the Declaration on Economic Affairs, which provided that Jewish property nationalized by the Soviets would "remain the property of the Lithuanian state," i.e. that the Jews would lose their property in every branch of the people's economy, that their bank accounts, securities, etc. would not be returned to them.

Soon the Provisional Government approved Regulations on the Status of the Jews, whose introduction is a collection of the most vicious stereotypical anti-Jewish accusations. According to this act, the Jews were placed outside the bounds of the law. They lost elementary civil rights, were forced to wear badges degrading to human dignity and honor, and – most importantly – were removed from where they lived and resettled "in separate places intended for this purpose."

All of this was in complete accordance with the Nazi strategy for the extermination of the Jews. Robbed, deprived of their rights, and forced into ghettos, the Jews became easy prey for murderers.

The above-mentioned LGGRTC note to the Seimas of the Lithuanian Republic states:

"While the Provisional Government was in power, the Sonderkommandos of the German Security Service and Gestapo used the re-established local governments to implement most of the orders discriminating against the Jews and to begin the process of setting up ghettos, and they used their own forces and those of the TDA battalion to begin the mass destruction of the Jews (preparations for these actions also involved the local police and the heads of some districts, cities, and civil parishes).

By August 5, about 38,000 Jewish citizens of Lithuania had become victims of the Holocaust. Zenonas Ivinskis, who was responsible for relations with

German institutions, urged the Provisional Government to condemn these massacres, but that was not done. [...]

It can be stated that during the entire six weeks of its existence the Provisional Government not only failed to prevent the destruction of the Jewish community in Lithuania but also did not make an official protest. On the contrary, provisions discriminating against the Jews were enacted in decrees concerning denationalization and the restitution of property. [...] In its session of June 30, the Government approved the financing of the National Work Guard (Hilfspolizeidienst) battalion and did not take steps to stop this financing when some of the soldiers in this battalion were used in the mass killing of Jews. During this same session, the Government approved the setting up of a concentration camp.... [...]

The Provisional Government very quickly lost any real chance of controlling the situation in Lithuania.... Nevertheless, the enactment of discriminatory laws, the establishment of concentration camps, and indifference to the destruction of the Jews (no public resolutions condemning these acts were adopted, and Lithuanian military units that participated in the Holocaust were not brought under control) encouraged, in the Lithuanian society of that time, anti-Semitic attitudes and the participation of individuals and groups in the Jewish Holocaust. All this had a direct and real influence on the fate of the people of Lithuania - both the perpetrators and the victims of the Jewish Holocaust."

*Joseph Levinson*

## APPEALS DISTRIBUTED IN LITHUANIA BEFORE JUNE 22, 1941

*Read and Pass On*

### AWAY WITH THE JEWS

[...] After centuries of slavery, OUR FELLOW LITHUANIAN, join the struggle for freedom. The hour of reckoning has come. Someone is on our side.

Let us wreak hundredfold vengeance on the Jews and Communists for shedding the innocent blood of our countrymen.

Enough of the Jews baking their matzos in Lithuanian blood. [...]

OUR FELLOW LITHUANIANS, IF YOU ARE AMONG THE LIVING, JOIN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST JEWRY.

OUR FELLOW LITHUANIANS, LET US LIBERATE OUR FATHERLAND FROM ENSLAVEMENT BY THE JEWS.

*LYA, f. K-1, ap. 58, b. 12949/3, vokas 63, l. 17.*

*Read and Pass On*

### TO THE JUDASES OF LITHUANIA

[...] THE PEOPLE SEE YOUR TREASONABLE WORKS. At the hour of reckoning all degenerates, traitors, sellouts, Communists, and Jews will be repaid at the price they themselves have set. [...]

Judases, your days are numbered. The final hours of enslavement by Jews and Bolsheviks are approaching.

After being ravaged and mauled by you, LITHUANIA IS READY TO RISE UP. Freedom will come to us over your corpses.

AWAY WITH THE JEWS, COMMUNISTS, AND LITHUANIAN JUDASES.

ALL HAIL AN INDEPENDENT NEW LITHUANIA.

*THE SONS OF THE PEOPLE*

*LYA, f. K-1, ap. 58, b. 12949/3, vokas 63, l. 15.*

[...] After centuries of enslavement to foreigners, OUR FELLOW LITHUANIAN, join the struggle for freedom. The hour of reckoning is coming with gigantic steps. Someone is on our side.

In one year the Jews and Communists have not yet managed to cut from our hearts the thirst for freedom. Let us pay the Jews back in kind – in blood. Let us not let them out of our sight so that not even one of them may escape. Let us not make any distinctions among them; all of them rejoiced during our days of woe.

Let us pull up by the roots for all time the most hateful parasite of our nation and our exploiter – the Jew.

Let us swear to wreak hundredfold vengeance on the Jews and Communists for shedding the innocent blood of our countrymen.

[...]

OUR FELLOW LITHUANIANS, if you are still among the living, COME FORWARD IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST JEWRY.

OUR FELLOW LITHUANIANS, LET US LIBERATE OUR FATHERLAND FROM THE JEWS.

LONG LIVE INDEPENDENT LITHUANIA.

THE FIGHTERS

LYA, f. K-1, ap. 58, b. 12949/3, zokas 63.

LITHUANIAN INFORMATION BUREAU IN BERLIN

FIGHT!

To our Countrymen in Occupied Lithuania

March 19, 1941

## OUR BELOVED ENSLAVED BROTHERS!

The hour of liberation is approaching for Lithuania. The results of several months of our diligent work and of your suffering under Asiatic oppression are at hand. It is our duty to quickly announce and inform you about these matters:

[...]

2. As already mentioned, for Lithuania the hour of liberation is at hand. Once the campaign from the west has begun, you will be informed about it that very minute by radio or other means. At that point, in the towns,

villages, and hamlets of occupied Lithuania local uprisings must take place, or more precisely put, the taking of the government into our own hands. Local Communists and other sorts of traitors to Lithuania must immediately be arrested so that not even one of them may avoid retribution for his actions.

3. We are sure that you are organizationally prepared; wherever preparations have not been made, organize into small secret groups. You have already learned that even among Lithuanians there are many traitors, so even at this fateful moment be very careful.

[...]

5. Once the actions have begun, occupy bridges, important railroad junctions, airfields, factories, etc. Do not destroy them, and do not let the Russians do so. They have great military and economic importance.

6. Inform the Jews today that their fate is sealed. Whoever can, therefore, let him get out of Lithuania in order to avoid unnecessary victims. At the decisive moment, take their property into your own hands in order to avoid unnecessary losses.

[...]

LITHUANIAN INFORMATION BUREAU

P.S. This announcement must, in spoken or written form, reach the most remote corners of Lithuania.

*LMAB RS, f. R-54, l. 226.  
Published in MŽL, part 1, pp. 49-50.*

*[No later than June 22, 1941]*

## OUR LITHUANIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS!<sup>1</sup>

[...] The fateful hour of final reckoning with the Jews has come. Lithuania must be liberated not only from Asiatic Bolshevik slavery but also from the age-old yoke of Jewry.

In the name of the entire Lithuanian nation, the Lithuanian Activist Front most solemnly declares:

[...]

1. The ancient right of refuge in Lithuania, granted to the Jews during the times of Vytautas the Great, is completely and finally revoked.

2. Every Lithuanian Jew without exception is hereby sternly warned to abandon the land of Lithuania without delay.

<sup>1</sup> From an appeal issued in Berlin.

3. All those Jews who exceptionally distinguished themselves with actions of betraying the Lithuanian state and of persecuting, torturing, or abusing our Lithuanian countrymen will be separately held accountable and receive the appropriate punishment. If it should become clear that at the fateful hour of reckoning and of Lithuanian rebirth especially guilty Jews are finding opportunities to escape somewhere in secret, it will be the duty of all honorable Lithuanians to take their own measures to apprehend such Jews and, if necessary, carry out the punishment.

[...]

The new Lithuanian state will be restored through the efforts, work, hearts, and wisdom of the people of the Lithuanian nation itself. The Jews are to be expelled completely and for all time. If any one of them should dare to believe that in the new Lithuania he will nevertheless find a refuge of sorts, let him learn today the irrevocable judgment on the Jews: in the newly restored Lithuania not even one Jew will have either the rights of citizenship or the means of earning a living. In this way, we will rectify past mistakes and repay Jewish villainy. In this way, we will lay a strong foundation for the happy future and creative work of our Aryan nation.

Thus, let us all prepare for struggle and victory – for the freedom of the Lithuanian nation, for the cleansing of the Lithuanian nation, for an independent Lithuanian state, for a bright and happy future.

*THE LITHUANIAN ACTIVIST FRONT  
LCVA, f. 1398, ap. 2, b. 1, l. 102-104. A copy.  
Published in MŽL, part 1, pp. 50-51.*

INFORMATION FROM THE CORRESPONDENT JURGIS KRASAUSKAS  
ABOUT THE SITUATION IN KUDIRKOS NAUMIESTIS DURING THE  
FIRST MONTH OF THE WAR

K[udirkos] NAUMIESTIS

K[udirkos] Naumiestis is almost unscathed by the war. One house was blown up in which some Russian soldiers had hidden (the local commandant, the head of the GPU, and others). The explosion broke several dozen windows. On June 22, in the afternoon, at the initiative of the German military commandant, a local Lithuanian committee was organized, consisting of the notary Lapušinskas, the veterinarian Krasauskas, the physician Kriaučiūnas, the postmaster Barauskas, and the priest Dobrovolskis. Administrative work began immediately.

When the old mayor, Mr. Skirgaila, returned, the committee assigned his duties to him.

The food supply is adequate: there is enough bread, butter, and meat. On August 10 ration cards were introduced.

In the villages the rye harvest is proceeding at full pace, even though a shortage of workers can be felt. The mood of the entire population is good. Everyone is determined to heal the wounds caused by the Bolshevik terror as quickly as possible.

*After being organized during the first days, the police and partisans cleansed the surrounding area of Jews, Communists, and bands of USSR soldiers [emphasis added - J. L.].*

Today, life in K[udirkos] Naumiestis is completely normal, as if there had not been any war at all, only there are very few Jews to be seen....

*News from the correspondent - j - k -*

*K[udirkos] Naumiestis*

*Jurgis Krasauskas*

*LMAB RS, f. 222 - 1751, l. 6. Original manuscript.*

*Published in 1941 m. birželio sukilimas, p. 145.*

ANTANAS DVORŽECKIS ABOUT THE BATTLES OF THE PARTISANS OF PUŠALOTAS

*During June 22-26:*

[...] All male Jews are being arrested and taught to do useful physical work. A normal free life is beginning.

*A. D. My address:*

*Antanas Dvoržeckis*

*Kaunas*

*[Užsienio gatvės St. 103, Apt. 1*

ŠAKIAI

August 12, 1941

...the Red year of Jewish violence did not pass without a trace. Throughout that time the population was constantly drawn, more and more, into great apathy, ... workers, farmers, and intellectuals, full of rancor because of Jewish violence, clenched their teeth and suffered....

As soon as the first sounds of war could be heard, the Bolsheviks hurriedly armed the Jews and sellouts....

Toward evening, when the German Army arrived, all the fiercest Jews and Communists had already abandoned the town....

Šakiai

August 12, 1941

LMAB RS, f. 222 - 1751, l. 1-5. Original manuscript.  
Published in 1941 m. birželio sukilimas, pp. 143-144.

## A CHRONICLE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ACTIVIST PARTISAN SQUAD OF DUSETOS

DUSETOS

August 4, 1941

...only the Jews and Russians as well as party sellouts and Communist youth betray their brothers to the Asiatics....

The Lithuanian does not forget. He will always be thankful to Greater Germany for liberation from bloody terror and enslavement by the Jews. [...]

The Jews are being relocated from the town to the suburb of Užtiltė. The town has been cleansed of parasites who have preyed on it for centuries.

The Lithuanian residents of Užtiltė are being resettled in the more suitable apartments of the Jews. The town is clean. [...]

Dusetos

August 4, 1941

Squad Headquarters

LCVA, f. R-1106, ap. 2, b. 18, l. 265-266. Original typescript.  
Published in 1941 m. birželio sukilimas, pp. 180-185.

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LCVA, f. R-1106, ap. 2, b. 18, l. 265-266. Original typescript.

Published in 1941 m. birželio sukilimas, pp. 180-185.

## A SURVEY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ACTIVISTS IN JONIŠKIS

1. The Activists began to operate on Saturday, June 28, 1941. A committee was immediately organized to maintain law and order in the city....

Later, the Activists were organized into separate groups, namely: a cadre commission, a commission to manage Jewish affairs....

Intended Activist activities: [...]

4. To concentrate the Jews in one place and use them for work in the fields and public works. [...]

K. Ralys

(signature)

Chief of Activist Headquarters

Delegates from Riflemen Activist Headquarters:

J. Meškalevičius (signature)

Pr. Volodka (signature)

(one illegible signature)

LCVA, f. R-739, ap. 1, b. 4, l. 3. Original typescript.  
Published in 1941 m. birželio sukilimas, pp. 251-253.

## THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ACTIVIST HEADQUARTERS IN JONIŠKIS ON THE QUESTION OF MANAGING THE JEWS

[no later than July 18, 1941]

The head of the Civil Parish of Joniškis, Mr. Staškevičius, is asked to serve as chairman, and Mr. Valiukas – as secretary.

Concerning the first item on the agenda, Mr. Ralys states his position about coordinating the operations of the Activists with those of the local governments. He states that we are on the eve of the collapse of Communism. We will undoubtedly join the National Socialist camp. The mayor of the town raises the question of who among those present will give direction to all this, for in local government very many difficulties arise on this matter. It is determined: the local governments will work in contact with Activist Headquarters (the Commission to Manage the Jews).

On the second question – that of relocating the Jews – Mr. Tininis states his position. The Jews need to be relocated. The mayor of the town intends to call a meeting and invite several members of the Activists. The selection of a quarter. There are about 1200 Jews in Joniškis. There will not be any room in Joniškis for Jews who have fled here from other places. The mayor states that the Jews should be concentrated in one place – moved from

smaller towns to one place. The chief of police states that the Jews could be held in the synagogues. The mayor of the town states that it would not be a bad idea to hold the Jews in the triangle formed by Darius-Girėnas Street and Pašvitinys Street. Settling the Jews near the market place would be a very bad idea. The chief of police states that the Jews who have fled here should be driven out of Joniškis and then it would be easier to cope with the Jews of Joniškis. The Jews could be moved to Žagarė. Everyone agreed on this question. The details will be settled by the Commission to Manage the Jews. The Lithuanians should not object to being moved from the Jewish quarter. A special commission will count the Jews and calculate whether it will be possible to hold them in that triangle. It would be fully possible to relocate the Lithuanians – all of the Lithuanians will agree to being relocated. The best place, in everyone's opinion, would be in the triangle between Darius-Girėnas and Pašvitinys streets. In Mr. Butkus' opinion, it would be best to settle the Jews in their synagogues and in houses near the market place because no Lithuanians live there. This question will be finally settled by the Commission to Manage the Jews. One representative from our local government is being summoned to the Commission to Manage the Jews. The question of a contribution from the Jews. Mr. Kakliauskas suggests 20,000 roubles. Everyone agreed.

The chief of police raises a question about the lack of furniture for Activist Headquarters, the police, and citizens who have suffered from the war. It is decided to take the needed furniture from the Jews, from those who have fled or who are well-to-do. After the contribution is signed, to give the Jews some time: it is voted to give them three hours. The deadline cannot be extended. The sanction if they do not sign, suggested by the chief of police – if they do not sign or do not bring the required sum, to lock up twelve of the more influential Jews and not let them out until everything is in order. Concerning the Jews' wearing of the Star of David, the chief of police states that the matter should be organized in such a way that this badge does not differ from the ones worn in other towns, likewise where it is worn. The deadline is to be announced today; tomorrow everyone will have to wear it. There will be a punishment for not wearing the badge. The police are undertaking to deal with this matter.

The question of the Jews who have not returned from the countryside. To return those who are not doing any work. This question will be settled in greater detail by the head and elders of the civil parish. The question of registering the Jews, the inventorization of their property – homes, farms – has been delegated to the local governments. In the opinion of the chief of police, for the time being they should be left on their farms; in Mr. Ačas' opinion, directors should be appointed for those farms that the Jews managed, and the Jews should be driven off these farms. Everyone

agrees with Mr. Ačas' opinion – to drive the Jews off the farms. To assign the former farms of the Jews to their former owners or to reliable persons who have a livestock or equipment inventory. It is decided: to punish with a fine those people who take in the Jews or their property. Its size will be determined by the Commission itself. Property is to be confiscated at the discretion of the Commission.

The question of the kiosk: the kiosk is to be left under the management of the local government.

*LCVA, f. R-739, ap. 1, b. 4, l. 10. Original typescript.  
Published in 1941 m. birželio sukilimas, pp. 257-259.*

Lithuanian Activist Front Joniškis Branch  
Commission to Manage the Jews

#### ORDER

On July 11 of this year, the Commission to Manage the Jews of Activist Front Headquarters publicly announced in the town nine orders for the Jews, which many of the Jews have not obeyed.

For example, not all of the Jews have returned to the town from the villages, not one Jew has yet made for himself or yet wears on his chest a Star of David, some of the Jews still walk on the sidewalks, some of the Jews still use Aryan services, etc.

Seeing that the Jews are not obeying the orders that have been announced, Activist Front Headquarters has decided to impose on the Jews a contribution of 20,000 roubles, which must be paid to Activist Headquarters on July 19 between twelve o'clock noon and three o'clock in the afternoon.

Chairman of the Commission  
Secretary  
Joniškis  
July 18, 1941

July 18, 1941, 4:20 p.m.  
Order received: (signature illegible)

*LCVA, f. R-739, ap. 1, b. 4, l. 13. Original typescript.  
Published in 1941 m. birželio sukilimas, p. 259.*

FROM INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE PARTISAN KAZYS JUSAS  
OF THE PETRAŠIŪNAI PARTISAN GROUP  
ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES:

...my heart was sorely pierced by this feeling. When the Bolshevik gang marched into Lithuania, bearing freedom and a Jewish paradise of barbarity.

I believed that all this would have to pass, that the cannibals, once they had drunk their fill of innocent blood, would burst....

By the blessing of the Most High, the mighty German Army could be heard marching into Lithuania and neighboring countries; at the same time, we also heard a Lithuanian appeal on the radio waves – Lithuanians, thwart the enemy, help in whatever way you can, drive the enemy out of Lithuania.

...I showed them a Lithuanian fist for the Jewish paradise they had bestowed on us. I fought in the fields of Petrašiūnai... Palemonas. From June 21 to June 30 alone and together with the Petrašiūnai group. [...]

I returned to my everyday work at peace and happy because our freedom and lives are now watched over by the powerful army of Greater Germany and its leader. [...]

July 27, 1941  
*Amaliai (signature)*

LYA, b. 9659/3, t. 4, l. 10.

# DOCUMENTS OF THE LITHUANIAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

*One of the first enactments of the Provisional Government of Lithuania was  
"A Declaration on Economic Matters" (Provisional Lithuanian Cabinet of Ministers,  
meeting of July 4, 1941, minutes no. 10, p. 36):*

In gratitude to the savior of European culture, Chancellor Adolf Hitler of the Greater German Reich, and to his courageous army, which has liberated the territory of Lithuania, honoring the blood and self-sacrifice of our partisans, the finest sons of our Nation, and empowered by their sacrifices to carry out the will of our Nation, the Provisional Government of Lithuania proclaims:

1. The economy of liberated Lithuania is based on private property, which alongside the public property of our nation is the most necessary precondition for raising our national well-being.  
Setting the common economic and social interests of our nation above the affairs of individual persons, our state coordinates the economic activities of private property with the public goals of our nation.
2. Insofar as not needed for the public affairs of our nation, lands and other property taken away by the Bolshevik government through nationalization, confiscation, or other means will be returned as provided for by our government.  
Land owners whose property rights were taken away by the land nationalization program announced by the Bolshevik government will have their former property rights restored to them.
3. **Nationalized Jewish property, as well as nationalized property that belonged to other persons who actively worked against the interests of the Lithuanian people, remains the property of the Lithuanian state.** [emphasis added - J. L.]
4. Until the necessary regulations have been published, this nationalized property will be controlled by the institutions to which it has been or will be entrusted.
5. The distribution of land, of urban and other property will be regulated in order to provide those who have little or no land with their own land and to create better economic conditions for rural and urban people.
6. In order to implement social justice and solidarity and to protect the interests of working people, the state will adhere to the principle "the public good before the private good."  
To this end, those who work will be included in the management of their workplaces, the improvement of productivity, and the betterment of economic and cultural conditions for workers.

*Juozas Ambrazevičius  
Acting Prime Minister (signature)*

*P. J. Šnelkus  
Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers (signature)*

*LLX. Pos. prot., p. 36-38.*

## ON THE BASIS OF THIS DECLARATION THESE LAWS WERE ENACTED:

Signed by Acting Prime Minister Juozas Ambrazevičius and Minister of Local Government Services Vytautas Žemkalnis of the Provisional Government, Paragraph 2 of the Law on the Denationalization of Urban Houses and Lots provided:

*The nationalized houses, lots, and farm buildings of Jews, foreigners, and other natural and legal persons who acted against the interests of the Lithuanian people are not to be returned to their former owners.*

*LLV. Pos. prot., p. 99.*

Signed by Minister Vytautas Žemkalnis, the regulations to implement this law indicate that if, when nationalized houses and lots are returned, there are several owners and if one or some of them are Jews, the owners also take control of the shares of their former partners.

*LCVA, f. R-496, ap. 1, b. 4, l. 12.*

Paragraph 2 of the Law on the Denationalization of the Lithuanian Merchant Marine and River Fleet provided that "the nationalized ships of Jews and persons who acted against the interests of the Lithuanian people are not to be returned to their former owners."

*LLV. Pos. prot., p. 132.*

Similarly formulated are the laws on the denationalization of factories, stores, and restaurants as well as the law to manage land ownership (the relevant paragraphs are 2, 2, and 14).

*LLV. Pos. prot., pp. 92, 101, 107.*

The decision of the Cabinet of Ministers on bank deposits and current accounts:

- 1. Credit institutions are to return from the consolidated current account Annulled Current Accounts and Bank Deposits the rightful sums to the current and deposit accounts of their depositors. [...]*
- 4. This decision does not apply to Jews and persons who acted against the interests of the Lithuanian people.*

*LLV. Pos. prot., p. 144.*

The decision of the Cabinet of Ministers on the return to their owners of stocks and bonds transferred to the Bank of Lithuania for safekeeping:

- 4. This decision does not apply to Jews and persons who acted against the interests of the Lithuanian people.*

*LLV. Pos. prot., p. 145.*

## REGULATIONS ON THE STATUS OF THE JEWS

Appendix 1 to Minutes No. 31 of August 1, 1941<sup>1</sup>  
[of the Lithuanian Cabinet of Ministers]

Whereas the Jews have, for centuries, exploited the Lithuanian people economically and degraded them morally, and during the past year, under the mantle of Bolshevism, they have expanded the struggle against Lithuanian independence and the Lithuanian people, and in order to prevent this destructive Jewish activity and protect the Lithuanian people from their harmful influence, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to enact these regulations: [...]

1

The Jews living in the territory of Lithuania are to be divided into these two categories:

Category I. Members of Communist organizations and other persons who, although not members of these organizations, participated in Bolshevik activities. They are to be arrested and prosecuted as criminals.

Category II. All other persons of Jewish nationality who do not fall into Category I. They are to be settled in separate localities selected for this purpose and on the left side of their chests wear a yellow, 8-centimeter circle with the letter J<sup>2</sup> in the middle.

The localities for settling the Jews in separate suburban quarters or on farms are to be selected, on the basis of local conditions, by the heads of districts after consulting with town mayors or other relevant local government bodies.

2

The Jews are prohibited from leaving the localities they have been assigned to live in without special police permission.

3

Persons of Jewish nationality may have personal effects only in the localities assigned for them to live in. The personal effects they have in other localities they must liquidate in two weeks from the day on which these regulations are enacted. The property that the Jews have not disposed of during that time is to be confiscated and handed over for public use.

4

Jews are forbidden to have:

- a) radios;
- b) printing presses, typewriters, or other means of printing written material (rotary presses, shapirographs, etc.);

**LYDŲ PARŠTINIS SUOSTATAI**

Ministerių Kabinetas, atsižvelgdamas į tai, kad šie  
dai ištiesus šimtmečius išnaudojo Lietuvos tautą ekonomiškai,  
mūsų šią moraliskai, o pastaraisiais metais, prisidėję  
dėngų bolševizmo skruiste, kovą prieš Lietuvos nepriklausomybę  
ir Lietuvos tautą, plačiausiai išvystė, ir siekdamas  
užkirti kelią šiai šalims šią veiklą bei apsaugoti

*lud*

Ydžio Kryžimui arba yra savaraimiai įstoję į Liet. kariuomenę  
iki 1919 m. III.5 d., jeigu jie vėlesniu laiku neveiktų prieš  
Lietuvių tautos interesus.

9

Šioms nuostatomis vykdyti instrukcijų leidžia ir ky-  
laudžia šai šią nuostatų vykdymo neatitiktumams ir skundams galutinai  
spręsdžia Vidaus Reikalų Ministeris.

10

Šie nuostatai veikia nuo šią priėmimo dienos.

*Kauno, 1919 m. rugpjūtio 24 d.*

*Kubarcus*

L. S. KUBARCUS VIDIAUS REIKALŲ MINISTERIS

VIDAUS REIKALŲ MINISTERIS

c) automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, or other mechanized means of transportation;

d) upright pianos, grand pianos, or harmoniums;

e) cameras.

5

Doctor's offices, X-ray machines, and apparatuses, instruments, and medicines used in physiotherapy are to be inspected by a special commission appointed by the Minister of Health, and what is needed is to be taken for public use.

6

Jews are prohibited from using the services of persons of other nationalities in their households.

7

Persons who have violated paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 of these regulations as well as persons of Jewish nationality who are dangerous to public order, peace, or security may be, at the discretion of the head of the district, held in forced labor camps for a period of up to one year if these crimes are not more severely punished by other laws.

8<sup>3</sup>

These regulations do not apply to persons who have been awarded the Knight's Cross or who voluntarily enlisted in the Lithuanian Army before March 5, 1919, if they did not at a later date act against the interests of the Lithuanian people.

9

The instructions to implement these regulations are to be issued and any ambiguities or complaints that arise over the implementation of these regulations are to be ultimately settled by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

10

These regulations are to take effect on the day that they are enacted.

*Kaunas, August 1, 1941<sup>4</sup>*

*Acting Prime Minister (signature)  
Juozas Ambrazevičius*

*Minister of Internal Affairs (signature)  
Jonas Šlepetys*

*LLV. Pos. prot., pp. 135-137.*

3 This regulation was not put into effect.

4 This record was handwritten.

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(par.) J. ŠTALMA, Ministrija iekšz. lietu. liet. 1942. g. Ministrija iekšz. lietu. liet. 1942. g. Ministrija iekšz. lietu. liet.

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REFERENCE  
Minutes  
of the morning meeting on June 30, 1941,  
of the Provisional Lithuanian Cabinet of Ministers

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4. The upkeep of a Lithuanian battalion and the setting up of a Jewish concentration camp.

4. After hearing Kaunas Commandant Col. Bobelis' report on the formation of a battalion (Hilfspolizeidienstbataillon) and the setting up of a Jewish concentration camp, the Cabinet of Ministers resolved:

1) to provide a 10-day advance for the upkeep of the battalion at 7492 roubles per day; in the future, to allot funds for this purpose based on the estimate which will be submitted;

2) to approve the setting up of a Jewish concentration camp and to put Mr. Švipas, Vice-Minister of Local Government Services, in charge of this operation, working in contact with Col. Bobelis.

To schedule the next Cabinet of Ministers meeting for today at 7:00 p.m.

*Acting Prime Minister J. Ambraševičius*  
(signature)

Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers J. Šeštokas  
(signature)

True certified copy  
(signature)

Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers (read)

Commenting on this document, Sarah Gin Robinson writes:

*This is a proposal to set up a concentration camp for Jews. [...] Thus, barely one week after the war began, the Lithuanian government decided, on its own initiative, to set up a concentration camp for Jews on Lithuanian territory. If this proposal had been implemented, Lithuania could have "taken pride" in being one of the first Nazi-occupied countries in Europe to have, without being urged or forced by the Nazis, a concentration camp intended only for Jews.<sup>4</sup>*

4. See Gidon Rubinowicz, *Atrodė kaip įmanoma (It seemed possible) 1941-1944 (Book of Memory: The Jewish Community of Kaunas, 1941-1944)* (Vilnius: Margi, 2004), p. 78.

## THE DECREES OF OCCUPATIONAL AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES AND OF THE POLICE

*On August 5, 1941, the activities of the Provisional Government of Lithuania were terminated. The Baltic States were turned into Ostland (the eastern land) of the German Reich. Lithuania became a general region of a province whose capital was Riga. It was managed by a general commissar, district (Gebiet) commissars, and military commandants. The structure of the German occupational government was supplemented by an auxiliary Lithuanian system of "self-governing" bodies. These consisted of nine general councilors under General Petras Kubiliūnas, the mayors of Vilnius and Kaunas as well as of district towns, the heads of civil parishes, the elders of precincts, and the public and the auxiliary police – 6000 people.<sup>1</sup>*

*One of the blackest deeds that the Lithuanian self-governing bodies had to perform was the extermination of the Jewish population and the seizure of their property.<sup>2</sup>*

It began with violations of the elementary civil rights of the Jews, of their human dignity and honor; the Jews at once found themselves outside the bounds of the law.

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1. Solomon Aschuk, *Lithuanian Jewish letters* [The Road Traveled by the Jews of Lithuania] (Vilnius: Alma littera, 1998), p. 250.  
2. Jonas Bulvius, *Valdžijų kaitis okupacijoje Lietuvos valdymas 1941–1944 m.* [The Occupational Rule of Lithuania by the German Fascists During 1941–1944], (Vilnius, 1999), p. 53.