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July 30, 2009

Prof. Dovid Katz
Vilnius Yiddish Institute
Vilnius University
Universiteto 7
Vilnius 01513
Lithuania

Dear Dovid:

As you know, Lithuania holds a special significance for me, because it was where I survived the Holocaust. My parents left me with my Polish Catholic nanny, who baptized me and raised me as her son in Vilnius, saving me from certain death at the hands of the Nazis.

As a distinguished scholar, you also know that Lithuanian militias participated with the Nazis in killing around 95 percent of the country's Jewish population, the largest percentage in any country during the Holocaust. And as a resident of Vilnius today, you know that anti-Semitism remains a serious problem in Lithuania, reflected in the media, in attacks on the Jewish community, in the investigations of Jewish partisans, and in other ways.

What you should know as well is how deeply we at ADL appreciate the time and effort you devote to combating anti-Semitism in Lithuania. Your reports are invaluable in alerting us to publications of anti-Semitic materials, and your comments provide important context for us to evaluate the information and take action.

We encourage you to keep up your excellent work, despite the challenges that invariably accompany speaking out against injustices that are looked upon by others with indifference.

Again, thank you for your commitment and your courage, and we look forward to continuing our cooperation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Foxman", written over a white background.

Abraham H. Foxman
National Director

AHF/as