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# Memory being trampled

Neither our Parliament nor our diplomats want to defend Lithuania's heroes from Jewish libel, pages 3, 5

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“They are criminals, they have no nationality” Auksute Ramanauskaite-Skokauskiene, member of parliament, daughter of Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas

Our Spineless Ones Trample History

[photo of soldiers holding guns in front of a memorial statue to Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas, General]

Foreign activists are allowed to pour filth unhindered on the most honored people in Lithuanian history. Our diplomats don't dare demand responsibility from the foreigners. It doesn't even occur to them to present a [diplomatic] note to the other country over the obvious libel.

by Ignas Jacauskas  
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## **Didn't hear any offensiveness**

In May the internet page of people presenting themselves as Lithuanian Jews blackened [the name of] Lithuania's best-known partisans. At the time Juozas Luksa-Daumantas, Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas, Lionginas Valiukevicius-Dzukas, Juozas Barzda-Bradauskas and several thousand other Lithuanians were openly called "murderers of Jews."

But neither then nor now did the highest government institutions of the country respond to this libel. Foreign minister Vygaudas Usackas and vice ministers, isolated from society by a barrier of assistants, could not answer why everyone is still keeping silent. The director of the information and communications department of the Foreign Ministry after several hours could only come up with this answer: "The Lithuanian Republic Foreign Ministry through diplomatic channels has brought Israel's attention to the publication of untrue information about Lithuanian partisans on one non-governmental organization's webpage in Israel. Our information is the this information is no longer being propagated on the above-mentioned webpage."

But Vakaro Zinios found out that even these pathetic justifications by the ministry are a lie. Because the aforementioned webpage continues to successfully propagate disinformation.

## **Didn't Get Support**

MPs Dalia Teiserskyte, Julius Sabatauskas, Kazimieras Uoka, Gintaras Songaila and Saulius Stoma after the Vakaro Zinios article in May asked the prosecutor general to investigate this disinformation and punish the guilty. So far the prosecutors haven't managed to do this.

Sabatauskas says the point of going to the prosecutor was to defend the honor of those who can't defend themselves. "The desire was that the information be investigated, and if it wasn't confirmed, to have legal cooperation initiated for bringing the webpage organizers to account or at least to retract the information and apologize," he said.

But Sabatauskas and the other parliamentarians who initiated the investigation didn't get any action from the highest representatives of the

country. Stoma admitted that our diplomats for some reason don't want to ruin their mood by defending the country's honor.

“I am a proponent of those actions that would show we aren't spineless and can defend our interests. But our diplomats are very ‘diplomatic’ in these kinds of circumstances. If they believe that it can disturb our relations with another state even a little bit, they tend toward silence. But if we keep silent, we won't really achieve much on the international scale,” the parliamentarian said.

### **It's Difficult to Defend**

Head of the Special Investigations Department of the Office of Prosecutor General Rimvydas Valentukevicius explained that the pre-trial investigation is not yet finished. But he admitted that initiative by diplomatic channels would speed the process up.

“I don't interfere in the work of other institutions. But everyone has to do his own work. To speed up certain actions in the case, in the pre-trial investigation—there's always the possibility for that. If the mechanism of all state institutions worked very well, without a doubt, that would be useful,” he said.

Valentukevicius said the prosecutor cannot stop the dissemination of information on the Jewish webpage because without a court verdict that is unfortunately without legal possibilities. There are only political possibilities.

### **Vakaro Zinios Commentary**

Auksute Ramanauskaite-Skokauskiene  
Enemies of the State: Our Own?

I feel hurt by such great and obvious unfairness. So far we haven't got a response from the prosecutor. Inaction is unjustifiable.

And on the presentation of a [diplomatic] note [of protest], that wasn't done. I am really not happy about that because I would like for such things to be

done. The position of the Foreign Ministry is also strange. They should have reacted. But for Ramanauskas as well as the other partisans, there can be no blemish. So the ministry should explain its position. Because this is incitement of ethnicities/nations [discord among nations].

Can this be allowed? It's not important if they are of one or another ethnicity. They are criminals, they don't have a nationality. So if we let someone defile the freedom fighters, whose name is holy, I don't understand that.

To defend the Homeland, isn't that the most honorable duty? And my father was returned all of the partisan awards given by the Government. And the president, the highest leader of the state, signed those decrees. So this is also an offense against the president—could he have awarded a person who has such a shadow?

### ***Vakaro žinios* — Voice of the Nation**

Is it really OK that public servants spit on the honor of society?

#### **Ruta, student**

Our government should have expressed its opinion to Israel. Sadly, it's obvious they didn't do their duty. So they accepted slander. Maybe honor and Lithuania herself is not so important to them?

#### **Laura, housekeeper**

Now it's clear how the government takes care of our honor. They can take care of their own needs in an instant. But in regard to the needs of the nation and its honor, they think we can suffer.

#### **Raimonda, savant**

It's surprising that no one from among government representatives reacts to such things. Some sort of apathy on matters of the nation and what is going on around them, because they are involved in their own matters. They should have reacted.

### **Irenijus, internet specialist**

Well a lot of Jews took part in the Soviet exile of Lithuanians, too. So no one needs to pretend to be a saint here. And our government is afraid because there is huge lobbying by Israeli representatives around the world.

### **Juozas, construction worker**

The partisans couldn't have done that. But on the government not reacting at all to these statements, that's not normal. The highest politicians haven't followed the Constitution that indicates they must serve the nation.

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## ***Vakaro žinios* Editorial Section**

Ignas Jacauskas

### **Dishonorable Defenders of the Nation's Honor**

The dignity of the Lithuanian nation is being dirtied. But government representatives comfortably occupying their seats are trying their utmost not to notice. This is why the libelously rewritten history of Lithuania can still be read by the entire world. For diplomacy is seen as the eternal aspiration of pleasing those who are above. Truly the executors of foreign policy would feel very uncomfortable sending a [diplomatic protest] note over the desecration of the partisans' name or demanding a public apology. Later during official lunch with representatives of those countries, a bite will get caught in the throat. It's better to keep quiet about painful things.

Filth is being poured not just on our past, on our noble Lithuanian figures. The chosen ones won't stir a finger over the mockery of Lithuanians currently taking place either. Does the state defend its citizens, those whom the United States, which has announced a visa-free travel regime, returns at the border without any explanation? Was even a word said to visiting Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko in Lithuania about the fact that

his country is giving safe haven to a man who led the massacre of January 13?

The government has only shown its spinelessness. Many citizens were convinced long ago: the government has forgotten its constitutional duty to represent the nation. [They] only remember the wish to represent themselves.