

TRANSLATION OF:

<http://racas.lt/holocausta-lietuvoje-lemekelniu-ir-batu-trukumas/>

in response to an article in Spiegel:

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,625824,00.html>

# The Holocaust in Lithuania was determined... by the lack of trousers and boots

by Arturas Racas

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I am not one of those who say that Lithuanians killed Jews during World War II because all Jews were Communists and made lists of the ones who were to be exiled when the Soviets came.

However, I also do not feel guilty as a Lithuanian for what my compatriots have carried out in Kaunas, Paneriai and other places in Lithuania.

I also do not think that heads of the Lithuanian state need to apologize annually and to announce that the whole of Vilnius is former Jewish cemetery only because some rabbis have decided so after digging in Snipiskes for two days.

However, I believe that [Y. Arad](#) and [F. Brancovskaja](#) needed to be tried and that only the court could decide whether they were guilty or not.

Because not just Israel and Jews, but also Lithuania and Lithuanians have a right to demand justice and amenability for crimes, notwithstanding the nationality of the perpetrators.

Why am I talking about all of this?

I have just read a very big article in "[Spiegel](#)". It is about the Holocaust in Europe and Hitler's helpers.

Apparently, most of them come from Eastern Europe.

Not just the most of them – reading this one might even get the impression that Eastern Europe is guilty not less than Hitler, Himmler and the SS.

I suggest to everyone to read it.

And if you will be very lazy (the text is rather long), I will in any case insert here a couple of quotes on Lithuania.

The first quote is about the massacre of Jews in Kaunas:

**“Orgy of Murder Like a Lithuanian National Ceremony**

When they all lay dead on the ground, the blond murderer climbed up on the heap of corpses and played the accordion. His audience sang the Lithuanian national anthem as if the orgy of murder had been a national ceremony.”

The second quote is about how easily Lithuanians killed Jews:

“There’s also reason to doubt the assumption that the helpers were pathological sadists. If that were true, they should be easy to identify, for example within the group of 50 Lithuanians who served under the command of SS Obersturmbannführer (Lieutenant Colonel) Joachim Hamann. The men would drive around the villages up to five times a week to murder Jews, and ended up killing 60,000 people. It only took a few crates of vodka to get them in the mood.

The third quote explains why they did that:

“For the Germans, 300 Jews meant 300 enemies of humanity. For the Lithuanians they meant 300 pairs of trousers and 300 pairs of boots.”

You see, everything seems to be that simple...

And me? As always, I am very curious to see if anyone in Lithuania will react to this.

And maybe again we will just throw ashes on our heads?