

**WIESENTHAL CENTER SUPPORTS DEMONSTRATION
TOMORROW BY HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AGAINST VISITING
LITHUANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER**

Jerusalem—The Simon Wiesenthal Center today expressed its fullest support for a demonstration planned by Israeli Holocaust survivors from Lithuania (with the support of Beit Leivick) against visiting Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis Monday evening March 5th at 6 PM in front of the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel-Aviv, where he will be the guest of honor at a gala dinner sponsored by the Lithuania-Israel Chamber of Commerce and the IsraLita Friendship Group. In a statement issued here today by its chief Nazi-hunter, Israel director Dr. Efraim Zuroff, the Center noted the importance of the demonstration in view of the systematic campaign being waged by the Lithuanian authorities to distort the history of the Holocaust in Lithuania by minimizing the critical role of local Nazi collaborators in the mass murder of Jews, and by promoting the June 2008 Prague Declaration which posits the canard that the crimes of the Communists were equivalent to those of the Nazis.

According to Zuroff:

“Foreign Minister Ažubalis not only accused a Jewish conspiracy of trying to amend the Lithuanian property laws to reclaim stolen property, but viciously attacking fellow members of the Lithuanian Parliament who recently had the courage to sign a public declaration emphasizing the uniqueness of the Holocaust and Nazi ideology. The statement issued by his office that it was ‘not possible to find differences between Hitler and Stalin except in [the length of] their mustaches. Hitler’s was shorter,’ was a disgusting insult to the memory of all Holocaust victims and make his choice as guest of honor by Israeli groups absolutely incomprehensible. The SWC proudly supports the survivors and stands with Igud Yotzei Lita Chairman Yosef Melamed and with Beit Leivick.”

For more information call **00-972-50-7214156**

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