

Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel

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Tel Aviv, 15th July 2013

STATEMENT BY THE ASSOCIATION OF LITHUANIAN JEWS ON THE CENTENARY OF ABRAHAM SUTZKEVER'S BIRTH

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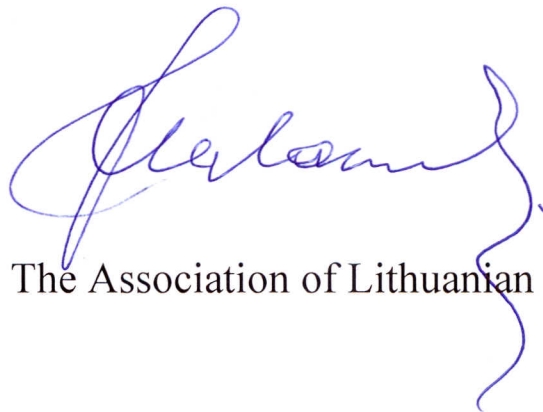
We, Holocaust survivors from Lithuania, join the Jewish and Litvak communities, and lovers of good poetry everywhere, in honoring the centenary of the birth of our beloved late member, the great Yiddish poet Abraham Sutzkever (July 15th 1913 – January 20th 2010). As is well known, Sutzkever served as a partisan in the underground during the Holocaust where he courageously participated in the war to liberate Europe from Nazi domination.

Though aged in years we are robust of spirit, and wish to take this opportunity to publicly express our opposition to the opportunistic and hypocritical events in Vilnius this summer to honor Sutzkever, while Lithuanian prosecutors have yet to issue public apologies to those of Sutzkever's comrades-in-arms, fellow Jewish anti-Nazi partisans, who have been defamed by Lithuanian government organs in a series of shambolic "pre-trial investigations" designed to smear for history the names of the Jewish resistance fighters of World War II.

In the absence of public apologies to Dr. Yitzhak Arad, Ms. Fania Yocheles-Brantsovsky, Dr. Rachel Margolis and attorney Joseph Melamed, these "Sutzkever events" constitute a cunning component of a Lithuanian government sponsored campaign to deflect attention from its massive distortion of the Holocaust by way of professing adulation of a Jewish poet who would himself have been subject to these kangaroo investigations had he lived.

Those who participate in these events, and who judge or accept Sutzkever prizes, will go down in history as opportunists, lackeys and abusers of Holocaust memory and of Sutzkever's name, unless they use the occasion to issue public written statements calling for official apologies to the defamed Jewish partisan veterans, comrades of Abraham Sutzkever, before any ceremonies, events and spectacles in Vilnius.

We feel confident that this would without a doubt be the sentiments of our dear Abrasha – the great Yiddish poet Abraham Sutzkever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melamed', is written over the text 'The Association of Lithuanian Jews'.

The Association of Lithuanian Jews