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**"Žydų paveldas Lite" NGO to the
Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania
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E-mail: kanceliarija@prezidentas.lt**

**RESPONSE TO THE LETTER DATED 2026-04-22, NO. 20-1506, REGARDING THE FATE OF THE VILNIUS CONCERT
AND SPORTS PALACE AND THE ŠNIPIŠKĖS JEWISH CEMETERY**

Dear Chancellor P. Zapolskas,

We appreciate your correspondence outlining the position of the President of the Republic of Lithuania and the initiative to break the current deadlock regarding this complex historical and moral issue. While we value the attention shown, we feel compelled to share a deeper insight rooted in the pursuit of truth and reverence for our ancestors' memory.

On the Origins and Symbolism of the Building

We must confront an uncomfortable truth: the Vilnius Concert and Sports Palace is, in its essence, a relic of the authoritarian Soviet regime, designed as a modern instrument of propaganda to exercise spiritual control over Lithuania through mass spectacles. Attempting to link this brutal Soviet tool—constructed atop desecrated remains—with the symbolism of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence is a grave historical anachronism.

The identity of a free state cannot be constructed upon foundations of coercion and the mockery of the deceased. Transforming a vehicle of Soviet propaganda into a symbol of freedom would constitute a significant moral defeat on the front of historical truth. We view current efforts to restore this "ghost building" not as a historical necessity, but as a distortion of facts that replaces truth with propaganda regarding the individuals interred in the soil of Šnipiškės.

On the Guardianship of the Cemetery and Authoritative Representation

The management and maintenance of the cemetery must be conducted with honor, in collaboration with institutions that represent the genuine continuity of the Lithuanian Jewish tradition and maintain a direct link to the descendants of those interred. While we respect the Lithuanian Jewish Community (LŽB) as a political partner of the Government, it must be noted that it lacks the specialized religious expertise required to resolve, manage and oversee the cemetery according to the specific standards of the Lithuanian Jewish tradition. To meet those requirements, it is incumbent to engage with authentic representatives of the international rabbinate who are willing and able to undertake this responsibility. Unfortunately, it is important to note that relying on the involvement of the London-based Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries in Europe (CPJCE) often serves merely as an "alibi partnership" in the propaganda theater, betraying a lack of will to engage honorably with the authentic Jewish world.

The Mission and Concrete Proposals of "Jewish Heritage Lite"

The mission of our organization is not only to preserve but to restore historical justice. The restoration of the Šnipiškės Jewish Cemetery is a fundamental objective of our activities. We are resolute in our commitment to mobilize international human and financial resources and to engage in high-level political dialogue and executive decision-making. We recall that in 2022, we offered support to the State Property Bank (*Turto bankas*) to conduct an independent expert analysis of the building's technical condition, utilizing a world-renowned engineering firm. Although that proposal did not receive ministerial approval at the time, we are prepared to act upon the President's current initiative as follows:

1. Resubmitting our proposal to the State Property Bank and the Vilnius City Municipality to fund and execute an independent technical audit.
2. Ensuring transparency and competence, providing conclusions that are independent of political conjecture.
3. Mobilizing the global Jewish community to support a solution that results not in another construction site, but in the rectification of a crime that cries out to the heavens—a dignified memorial that Lithuania and the world need far more than another conference center.

We believe that a true breakthrough will only be achieved when the courage to call things by their true names overcomes the fear of losing Soviet concrete. True freedom begins with respect for those who can no longer defend themselves.

With profound respect and hope,

President, „Žydų paveldas Lite“ NGO