

**Critical review by Prof. Liudas Truska of Vytautas Magnus University**  
**on the work by Vytautas Toleikis**  
**on Gypsies of Lithuania during the Years of Nazi Occupation**

Research of the genocide against Gypsy people perpetrated by Nazis is very difficult due to the shortage of sources, their practical absence. Not even rough data is available about the number of Gypsies who lived in Lithuania on the eve of Hitlerite occupation, neither how many of them were exterminated and how many survived.

Researcher of the theme Vytautas Toleikis studied both the scarce Lithuanian sources and the richer more universal sources on the theme of his research, as well as documentary material and periodicals of war years. However, to my mind, the most significant contribution by V. Toleikis has been the interviews conducted by him in 1998-1999 with 28 respondents of Gypsy origin. Relying on these scarce sources the researcher overviewed Nazi policy with respect to Gypsies, did analysis of the situation of people of this nation and the losses they suffered during the years of occupation. V. Toleikis draws a justified conclusion that a systematic repression against Gypsies started later than against Jews: the first period began towards the autumn of 1941, and the period of extensive repression – only in 1942. The researcher established the locations in Lithuania where Gypsies were imprisoned and annihilated (the principal place of killing – Pravieniškės).

However, the work by V. Toleikis does not give answer to the question, which is of greatest relevance in Commission's work: how many Gypsy people, at least roughly, had been killed in Lithuania? In page 3 he writes that, according to Martin Gilbert, some 1 000 Lithuanian Gypsies were killed. V. Toleikis believes, that [out of] 1 000 deported Gypsies, after the war "it seems, more than a half" returned to Lithuania (p. 3); the remaining almost all perished. However, this number quoted by V. Toleikis does not include those who perished on the first days of the war, also those Gypsies who were afterwards killed in various places of imprisonment in Lithuania. Thus, probably it should be reasonable to adopt the approximate figure quoted by Gilbert? Because the nature of Commission's activities request us to give at least an approximate number of Lithuanian Gypsies killed by Nazis.

Liudas Truska

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