

LITHUANIA

# ATMINTIES KELIAS

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ROAD OF MEMORY



Tarptautinė komisija

nacių ir sovietinio okupacinių režimų nusikaltimams Lietuvoje įvertinti

## NEWSLETTER

2021/09/23

### DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE GENOCIDE OF LITHUANIAN JEWS – SEPTEMBER 23RD

On September 23rd, the day of remembrance of the victims of the Lithuanian Jewish genocide was marked across Lithuania, in towns and townships. This year, 192 institutions joined the civic initiative “The Road of Memory” initiated by the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania. The biggest commemoration event of “The Road of Memory” took place in Vilnius and Paneriai.



## *Commemoration event of September 23rd in Vilnius, Rūdninkai Square, and Paneriai Memorial*

The event for the Remembrance of the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews in Vilnius started in Rūdninkai Square, a former ghetto area. The event was attended by politicians, students with teachers, and a large number of diplomats: USA Ambassador Robert S. Gilchrist, German Ambassador Matthias Sonn, and Mrs. Rhian Chilcott, UK Ambassador Brian Olley, Swedish Ambassador Inger Buxton, and Second Secretary of the Embassy Fredrik Åhsberg, Dutch Ambassador Bonnie Horbach, Ambassador of Italy Diego Ungaro, Ambassador of Latvia Indulis Bērziņš, Ambassador of Ukraine Volodymyr Yatsenkivskyi, First Counselor of the French Embassy in Lithuania Laurence Bernardi, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Canada Richard Martin Nielsen, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Croatia Dorja Staničić, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Romanian Embassy Doru Lucan, First Adviser to the Turkish Embassy, Deputy Head of Mission Mehmet Apak, Interim Adviser to the Apostolic Nunciature Fr. Da Woon Cheong.



At the beginning of the commemoration event, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania Ingrida Šimonytė addressed the participants of the event: “Today we have gathered in the very heart of Vilnius, where only separate fragments remind us of how unique and polyphonic this town was before the Tragedy. Yes, it happened a long time ago, eighty years ago. There are fewer and fewer of its witnesses alive. But this encourages us to promise even louder: we will not forget.” Emanuelis Zingeris, the chairman of the international commission, reminded that Vilnius was once a prosperous multinational town, which was called dignifiedly North Jerusalem by local Jews.



Speaking to the participants, Michel Gourary, the representative of the International March of the Living, recalled the speech of the President of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas delivered at the Israeli Knesset in 1995. The Klezmer Klängen ensemble introduced the gathered to the once omnipresent Jewish music, and the anthem of the Jewish partisans and the Vilnius ghetto was sung by the students of Vilnius Saulėtekio school – a multifunctional center. Ronaldas Račinskas, Executive Director of the International Commission, who conducted the event, thanked the teachers and students who participate in the event not only in Vilnius, but also organize the commemoration of “The Road of Memory” in various places all over Lithuania.

From Rūdninkai Square, the participants marched to Vilnius railway station and took a train to Paneriai. From Paneriai railway station, the participants of “The Road of Memory” walked to the Paneriai memorial, where together with Lithuanian politicians, representatives of various institutions, representatives of the Lithuanian Jewish community, foreign diplomats attended an official event to mark the Remembrance Day of the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews.





Speaker of the Seimas Viktorija Čmilytė - Nielsen, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Lithuania Yossef Levy, USA Ambassador Robert S. Gilchrist, German Ambassador Matthias Sonn, Faina Kukliansky, Chairwoman of the Lithuanian Jewish Community spoke at the ceremony commemorating the victims of the Holocaust about historical memory, the obligation to know, the importance of understanding what happened in Lithuania 80 years ago. Participants listened to the prayer of cantor Shmuel Yatomu. At the end of the event, students from Tolerance Education Centers put commemoration stones at the monument as a memory of the people killed at the site.





## *„The Road of Memory“ initiatives from all of Lithuania*

“The Road of Memory” events dedicated to the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Lithuanian Jewish Genocide have been taking place in Lithuania for the eleventh year. This year, marking 80 years from the Holocaust, “The Road of Memory” events in the regions have been taking place since June and are scheduled until mid-December. Events in Lithuanian towns and townships take place on dates related to the extermination of local Jews 80 years ago.

### *Moments from the events in Lithuania:*



*Vilnius „Atgaja“ Special School*



*Kretinga District Salantai Gymnasium*



*Radviliškis Gražina Basic School*



*Šakiai District Kudirkos Naumiestis Gymnasium*





*Alytus District Simnas Gymnasium*



*Radviliškis District Šeduva Nursery School*



*Vilkaviškis Salomėja Nėris Basic School*



*Radviliškis District Šeduva Nursery School*

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION IS THANKFUL FOR  
PARTNERS, PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS**

**<https://www.komisija.lt>**

**2021**

