

28 Shvat Rabbi Yaakov Hillel

Rosh Yeshivat Hevrat Ahavat Shalom

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Clarification of Rabbinical Ruling

I saw the ruling of the Rabbinical Court of the city of Bnei Brak about the old Jewish cemetery in Vilnius, Lithuania, that one may not add desecration to the current desecration by renovating the building that is on the cemetery grounds, because from the beginning, it was an evil violation that it was built on holy ground- resting place of Jewish dead. It was shame and abuse of the dead and stealing of their resting place that belongs only to them and their descendants. There is no one----, committee, group, congregation or community that can expropriate the right of their private ownership, and Heaven forbid to add offense to the original crime with renovation to the building that was built on the place of destruction of the original graves and turn it into a place of culture of sinners. All of the words of the Rabbinical Court are true and right, founded on "bases of gold" of pure and clear rabbinical law, and they do not need support from me.

However, I find it appropriate and necessary to add to warn publicly of the great danger. Besides the rabbinical decision about the Vilnius cemetery, this leads to damage to all cemeteries in every place, because now every "breach in the fences" of preserving the Jewish cemeteries in any place in the world, could endanger the preservation of other Jewish cemeteries in the world...ALL ARE ONE AND THE SAME!!

I have personal knowledge that there are many countries that the government desires to take over large areas of Jewish cemeteries, that holy people are buried there, that are found in the heart of large cities, commercial centers, places of entertainment and tourism and the property is enormously valuable. And there is no doubt that violation of one place enables them to continue their evil schemes in other places.

Therefore, it is the obligation to stand firm like a fortified wall and protest strongly against any change in the condition of Jewish cemeteries. Anyone who changes will get the worst of it, because his direct or indirect action will cause damage and destruction to more cemeteries, and this is the category of "distorted and cannot be fixed" G-d forbid.

Signed and sealed: Rabbi Yaakov Moshe Hillel