



LIETUVOS KARAIMŲ RELIGINĖ BENDRUOMENĖ

Declaration

The Board of the Religious Community of Lithuanian Karaims has got the information that in the Netherlands a Central spiritual board of Russian Karaims abroad (CSBRKA) has emerged. As up to the Statutes of this new organization its goal is to unite Karaim religious communities of now independent states which once belonged to the former Russian empire, and to exercise their government in both administrative and religious sense.

On behalf of all Lithuanian Karaims the Board of the Religious Community of Lithuanian Karaims declares that:

- CSBRKA was not authorized to represent Lithuanian Karaims and this authorization will never be given,
- Lithuanian Karaims do not need any advises from outside on how to organize the religious life of Karaims,
- Karaims of Lithuania, Poland and the Ukraine are Karaims not only by their religious confession, but first of all by their ethnicity,
- This declaration will be published on the official site of Lithuanian Karaims (www.karaim.eu), it will be as well presented to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania with an appropriate explanation on this particular situation and with the request to undertake legal measures in case if CSBRKA would act on our behalf without having any permission for that.

The Religious community of Lithuanian Karaims is the only one religious organization of Karaims on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. It is registered under the Lithuanian Ministry of Justice as a successor of Karaim religious community of the Great Duchy of Lithuania. The Religious community of Lithuanian Karaims enjoys a status of a traditional religious community in Lithuania which is confirmed by the Constitution of the Republic.


The Religious community of Lithuanian Karaims is a juridical person. Its statutes and the legislation of the Lithuanian Republic constitute a legal basis for its activities. In the statutes, which are approved by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania there is no clause on existence of any higher religious authority for Lithuanian Karaims outside Lithuania.

As far as we are informed declarations similar to this from our Polish and Ukrainian brothers have been distributed. The Religious community of Lithuanian Karaims supports the provisions of those declarations.

Head of the Board of the Religious Community of Lithuanian Karaims

Hazzan

Josif Firkovich



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