

Dear Žagarė residents

Guests of Honor,

Failing to be personally present with you on this day, when the plaque is unveiled for eternal memory of Žagarė Jews who perished during the Holocaust, I am sending you my sincere thanks for having saved the memory of the innocent victims in your hearts.

The Holocaust Map of Lithuania is dotted with black spots – terrible places of massacre of Jews. We cannot and we do not have the right to delete them from our historical memory.

But we can, like every civilized nation, be able to look at our past openly and honestly. We should have the ability to honor our heroes and condemn those who in collaboration with the Nazi occupiers failed the test of humanity. I think that the free and democratic Lithuania is mature for that.

This day honors Zagare Jews – and it is another proof that the Holocaust is not just policy of this government or, as people say, the policy of those who are in power. It is a sincere experience of our people and our society.

I bow my head in memory of those killed, I bow my head to the rescuers of Jews - World Righteous of the brave spirit and heroes of Lithuania.

Audronius Azubalis