

July 1, 2019

Press Release

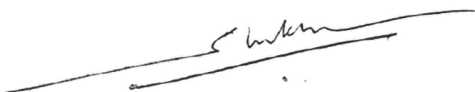
On behalf of International Center of Cultural Studies (ICCS), and its associates in all the continents and about 40 countries globally, I express my deep anguish that the Seimas (Lithuanian parliament) on Thursday, June 27, failed to grant state recognition to Romuva, an ancient Baltic religious community, after 40 lawmakers voted in favour, 31 were against and 15 abstained.

It is a matter of grave concern that reportedly the local Catholic hierarchy actively pursued to block Romuva's bid for the official status of a religion. Europe knows it better, that the long-term consequences of trying to suppress or discriminate based on religious beliefs leads to wider social bigotry and eventually results in larger damage to society.

Ancient cultures and religions have been actively decimated by various vested interests. This was indeed a great opportunity for the Seimas to show respect to its own heritage and culture. Unfortunately, for the Romuvas, it would mean at least another 10 years of struggle for survival till the motion can be taken up again by the Seimas. How would the opposing Christians feel, if their rights to practice their religion was suspended for another 10 years?

ICCS and its affiliates thank all the representatives of the ruling Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union who voted in favour of granting Romuva state recognition. We hope they will continue to extend their support to Romuvas going forward.

With best regards,



Shekhar Patel, PhD
President
ICCS USA Inc
Email: shekhar.Patel@iccsglobal.org