

By general request

GAIZULIS Jozef

15. XII. 1919.

Fully conforms with the original.

Secretary of the Temporary Lithuanian Committee in Vilna.

(SEAL) (signed) IG. JONYNAS.

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O d p i s.

BRITISH LEGATION

Warsaw,

January 19th, 1920.

the honour
His Majesty's Minister has to transmit herewith to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs copy of a statement which has been addressed to the temporary Lithuanian Committee in Vilna by the Lithuanian prisoners interned in the Polish camp of Strzalkowo. This document, which has been forwarded by the British Commissioner at Kovno refers a state of affairs which, if described with even approximate accuracy, merits the urgent attention of the Polish authorities in order that summary measures may be taken to stop the treatment complained of and to improve the conditions in which these Lithuanians are under confinement.

Sir Horace Rumbold has no doubt that the Polish authorities will cause a strict inquiry to be held, and that any person found guilty of the inhumanities complained of will be suitably dealt with.

His Excellency
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Warsaw.

To the Temporary Lithuanian Committee in Vilna
From the interned and prisoners
in the camp of Strzalkowo.

S T A T E M E N T.

We, Lithuanian prisoners and interned in the camp, urgently request the Temporary Lithuanian Committee for assistance, for most of us are taken here without any ^{reason and} at present we find ourselves in a frightfully bad condition.

All of us were deprived of our clothes and were robbed by Polish troops and gendarmes; our money was taken away from us. Having no assistance from outside, we are suffering from hunger and from cold, and there is no day but that several scores of prisoners are taken ill; if taken to the hospital, few of them come back. The reason for this is that there is a shortage of fuel, drugs and medical supplies which are practically non-existing; mattress covers cut into strips are used in place of bandages.

The barracks are almost entirely destroyed; the dugouts have caved in and are full of water which flows in so fast that it can hardly be emptied with pails. Neither straw nor mattresses are given to anyone. There were instances (and they exist at present, too) that the men, having retired at night are found cold corpses in the morning. The rations are frightfully bad: one pound of bread and one litre of soup made out of carrots or frozen potatoes — constitutes a whole day's ration. Although almost naked and feeble, the prisoners are being driven to hard labour where many of them drop down because of exhaustion, and are taken away to the hospital in a fainting condition. We have to suffer from frightful outrages and cruelty committed by the Polish Administration.

The wire whip and striking of the face are usual methods applied to the prisoners. We are compelled to bear various indignities ~~has~~ committed by the guards, especially by the young soldiers of the Warsaw and Luck

Luck companies. At night we have to go to the toilette place with the guard, almost naked and without shoes; one who has shoes on is ordered to take them off and is compelled to run on the frozen ground from one side of the wiring to the other.

Those prisoners who came with the first transports were beaten to death by the beast Lieut. Malinowski, whose savage acts were beyond description. He shot several prisoners to death; with his own hand; others have been flogged almost to death; those who recuperated after months of care in hospital, have got frightful rotting wounds left. He (Malinowski) used to order those tortures very often, especially for the escape of a prisoner; in such cases he ordered everybody out ^{of} barracks and gave everybody 25 lashes with the wire whip; they used to whip so cruelly that lashes of the whip were tearing out pieces of flesh. He himself used to put his heel on the neck of a prisoner and holding revolver at the prisoner's head ordered him "not to make the slightest cry." There was no exception even for women who were receiving 15 lashes with the wire whip; after the tenth stroke they usually fainted. At last the commission appeared; Lieut. Malinowski and Capt. Wagner, the commander of the camp, were removed.

We respectfully request the Committee not to leave us to rot here in this hell, in these torments, but, to take steps so that the innocent could be set free, the living conditions of the rest could be improved and that we could have an opportunity to shed our blood for our fatherland. Once more we ask for help.

There are about 300 Lithuanian soldiers in the camp, a few officers among them, The names of a few of them I am giving here. Jozef Cernius, Jerzy Venzemel -- officers of the Kovno Infantry battalion, 3rd company, Anthony Galinis, non-commissioned marine officer; Aleksander Godlewski marine officer, Stanislaw Kauszakis, Aleks. Bujniewicz, Jozef Germanowicz, Wincent Pruczynski, ^{MACZEK} Nowicki, ^{ADJUTANT GENERAL} Adam Kwatowicz Michailowski, Butkiewicz and others.

WARSZAWA
L. Dz. 23547 dnia 28/7

