

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

LCVA, 1390/3/5, 1; Kopie: USHMM, 1998.A.0073, reel 64.

Ghettos under Nazi Rule – Work

Translation: *D07 A threat of the Kaunas Judenrat to hand over persons who refuse to work for Germans*

Pronouncement 2 of the Jewish Council of the Ghetto Kaunas, [Elkes], on 8 November 1941.

From the [pronouncements of SA-Obersturmführer] Jordan it is with [*illegible*] [, that new] great danger is over us [all. This is] only ascribable to the fact [, that many] of our coreligionists evade their work duty at the airport in all possible and unlicensed ways.

Coreligionists! Due to the unscrupulousness of individuals, our whole community will suffer serious damages. The last hour has come and as early as tomorrow it can be too late to avert the doom befalling us. This is what you have to understand. In the hour of greatest danger we turn to you with the following call: See the cruel severity of the present moment and finally give up playing with our destiny. There must not be one of us not doing his entire work duty and all women and men able to work have to line up for work like one man with no exception.

In order to save our hardworking and diligent population from the horrible doom, to which they are exposed as a result of the irresponsible work-deserters, the Jewish Council has now additionally decided to relentlessly hand over all those, who evade their obligations in malicious ways, to the organs of power for further inducement. The Jewish Council feels unable to show any consideration towards the resulting consequences that will arise for the lives of those involved.

translated by Regina Sandler & Giles Bennett