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President of Lithuania does not exclude existence of CIA prisons near Vilnius at one Time

The President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė stated that she had "indirect suspicions" about the existence of a secret prison of the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Lithuania earlier, news agency BNS reports from Vilnius. She marked that an investigation by parliament, which found no secret prison, had been only a formality. "I do not have an intelligible answer. I was in Brussels [as an European Commissioner] when this could have been happening. I do have indirect suspicions. It is not only myself but also the international community," Grybauskaitė told reporters at a press conference in the Lithuanian capital today. "Both Lithuania and the United States should give answers to these questions," she said.



Dalia Grybauskaitė

According to President Grybauskaitė, if the reports regarding the existence of the CIA prison for terror suspects in Lithuania at one time would be confirmed, Lithuania should take responsibility and apologize for the past decision or it could risk becoming a target for terrorism. The claims on the CIA prison surfaced in August and have been denied by the Lithuanian government and former top officials.

Grybauskaitė took office of the Lithuanian President in July after having served since 2004 as Lithuania's member of the European Union's executive in Brussels.

The US TV station ABC, citing unnamed former CIA officials, claimed Lithuania hosted a prison for "high-value" Al-Qaeda suspects. The facility was allegedly closed in 2005.

AIA [reported](#) yesterday about the revelation in Latvia, Lithuania's neighbouring country, that a year ago, when combining the two prisons located in the city of Daugavpils, it was revealed that 50 prisoners who had received all necessary for spending their sentence in one of the city's prisons were not registered in any of them.

Daily Seichas wrote that between 2001 and 2005 a secret CIA prison was allegedly arranged in abandoned Soviet army bunkers in the vicinity of the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius . Prisoners on terrorism charges who were "hidden" there disappeared later. The paper concluded that they were moved from Vilnius to the White Swan prison in Daugavpils in strict privacy.

Agence France Presse has noted today that Washington wants its allies to take in detainees from Guantanamo as part of US President's plan to close the controversial facility. Lithuania which in February announced it had been asked to take in two inmates warned last week that it would not accept any until it was cleared of the CIA allegations.