escaped certain death to join the anti-Nazi Holocaust survivors of ‘war crimes’ if they were willing to come unless Margolis – a dual Lithuanian-Israeli citizen – was invited to join the Lithuanian delegation as a guest of the Lithuanian embassy. "Rachel Margolis was never accused of anything. Never. She was a witness in a legal case about the burning of a village, where men, women and children were burned alive. She could know about how this could have happened, so she was invited to be a witness. That’s it." Unlike Katz, who has lived in Vilnius for the last 10 years, says he feels "proud to look, sound and feel very Lithuanian," Katz's criticism of the Lithuanian presence was initiated by the judiciary rather than the government, and that whatever anti-Semitism exists in Lithuania is based on a rampant hatred of Russians. Jews, said Zalkin, were over-proportionally involved with the KGB – which is considered to have perpetrated a "Lithuanian genocide" – and it is in this light that anti-Semitic sentiments have to be evaluated. Zalkin pointed out that historian Tomas Venclova, "the first Lithuanian writer to say that the Lithuanians are collectively guilty for their role in the Holocaust," will be on the panel. "We should welcome such efforts to promote this bilateral discourse via the cultural channel," said Zalkin. The organizers of the fair, meanwhile, are trying to stay away from the controversy. "I am not a politician, I am just running a book fair," said Zev Birger, the chairman, who was born in Lithuania. "I don't know if it's propaganda or not, but we're offering a platform for discussions, and we invite people to come and ask questions and have a dialogue. The Lithuanians will have to reply, and by talking to each other, the truth will emerge." Birger, who moved to Israel in 1946, after having been liberated from Dachau – and who returned to his native Lithuania for the first time only two years ago – said he personally doesn't believe the Lithuanians dealt correctly with their role in the Holocaust. He added, however, that he is happy about their eagerness to participate in this year's fair. "We believe that the exchange of literature and culture brings people together," said Birger. "Because people know more about each other by reading the books of the other nation's authors. And they'll get closer to each other."