

To Her Excellency, Mdm. Tamar SAMASH,  
Ambassador of the Republic of Israel to Bucharest

Regarding your embassy's position on Mircea Vulcănescu

Dear Madame Ambassador, my name is Mihai Șomănescu and I am representing the Romanian news website [www.ActiveNews.ro](http://www.ActiveNews.ro).

You may have heard about an initiative of the National Romanian Holocaust Research Institute „Elie Wiesel” (INSHR) to make sure local authorities in some cities, including Bucharest, will rename a school and a street that bares the name of the Romanian philosopher, political thinker and sociologue, Mircea Vulcănescu.

INSHR motivates this request with the sentence of the defunct People's Tribunal, by which Mircea Vulcănescu was condemned for „war crimes”, because he was an undersecretary in the Finance Ministry of Romania during the Second World War.

This initiative has brought the opposition of many, including well-known academics, former ministers, writers, etc. (here: <http://www.contemporanul.ro/noutati-editoriale/apel-pentru-mircea-vulcanescu-mari-scriitori-romani-criminali-de-razboi.html>) The opponents of the initiative argue that the People's Tribunal failed to prove any order or action given by Vulcănescu that would have been considered a war crime by the Nurnberg Trials and this was merely a political conviction, given his anti-communist views. Also, they note, Vulcănescu was a staunch anti-fascist, a view that made him refuse the offer to join the Iron Guard Government in September 1940.

Moreover, they argue that Vulcănescu build his house in the Jewish Quarter of Bucharest, right next to a synagogue. **It is worth noting that the Romanian Orthodox Church officially endorsed the public memory of Mircea Vulcănescu, considering him a „true martyr for the Christian faith”. Vulcănescu died in a communist prison due to the lack of medical care, his body being burried in a common grave** (here: <http://www.activenews.ro/stiri-social/Patriarhia-Romana-sustine-si-indeamna-la-cinstirea-si-cultivarea-memoriei-tuturor-celor-care-s-au-jertfit-pentru-apararea-valorilor-crestine-si->

[nationale-intre-care-Mircea-Vulcanescu-%E2%80%9Eerudit-savant-crestin-care-a-murit-ca-un-adevarat-martir-144483](#)

Given these circumstances, we ask: what is your position regarding Mr. Vulcănescu' Romanian public heritage? Does your Excellency consider him a war criminal or an anti-Semite?

We would express our deepest gratitude if you could send us a written response.

Whatever your answer may be, we wish to assure you and the Israeli Government of our most warm feelings and respect towards the jewish people and it's culture.

Thank you,

Mihai Șomănescu  
Romanian Journalist  
[www.ActiveNews.ro](http://www.ActiveNews.ro)

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