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**FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER DECRIES UNITED
CHURCH TORONTO BRANCH BOYCOTT OF
ISRAELI GOODS**

TORONTO, June 28/06...."We are very disappointed and surprised to learn today that the United Church of Canada's Toronto branch plans to boycott Israeli products and companies doing business with its military," said Leo Adler, Director of National Affairs, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center For Holocaust Studies.

"As with CUPE Ontario, this is a small group within the United Church, who have taken this contentious position. We'd like to believe this is not the view of the United Church across Canada.

"It is curious that just last week, the 217 Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), replaced its anti-Israel resolution with one of positive investment in projects promoting peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians. We hoped that their move would have marked a real turning point in ending the unjust characterization of churches, academic groups and NGOs to demonize Israel. Perhaps the Toronto branch of the United Church could take a lesson from the Presbyterian Church in taking a more positive, not negative view of this issue," Adler added.

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ABOUT FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies is a Canadian human rights organization dedicated to fostering tolerance and understanding through community involvement, educational outreach and social action. With over 40,000 members of all faiths, it confronts important contemporary issues including racism, anti-Semitism, terrorism and genocide. Friends is affiliated with the world-wide, Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, an accredited Non-Government Organization with status at international agencies, including the United Nations, UNESCO, OSCE and the Council of Europe, with offices in New York, Miami, Paris, Jerusalem, Buenos Aires, and Toronto. Simon Wiesenthal died in 2005 after devoting his life to preserving the memories of the victims of the Holocaust, while simultaneously seeking justice for the war criminals.