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FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES AND EL AL LAUNCH SCHOOL BAG DRIVE FOR ISRAELI CHILDREN

TORONTO, August 22/06....Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center For Holocaust Studies and EL AL Israel Airlines have launched a program to provide ready-made school bags to displaced Israeli children.

Said Friends' President and CEO Avi Benlolo, "As the school term approaches, we are asking Canadians to consider packing an extra school bag for Israeli children suffering under immeasurable stress because of the war. We are assembling newly-purchased items such as a junior backpack, exercise workbook, stickers, markers/crayons, pencils/pencil case, pencil eraser, pencil sharpener, child friendly scissors, anti-bacterial hand wash, hairbrush, solid body soap, small toy or stuffed animal.

"A personal letter of support and photo of a donor's family would also be really appreciated," he added.

Filled school bags can be delivered to the Friends office, 5075 Yonge St. #902 (across from Mel Lastman Square) in Toronto. Visit www.fswc.ca or call 416-845-9735 ext. 0.

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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.