



MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER COMMENDS THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ITS RE-ALLOCATION OF AID TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Toronto – January 15, 2010 - Canada has reduced its direct support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the UN agency that administers Palestinian refugee camps, in favour of financial assistance to foster justice sector reform and a fair and democratic criminal justice system in the Palestinian Authority. According to Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, Canada wants to ensure its five-year, \$300 million commitment to the Palestinian Authority is spent on programs that are consistent with Canadian values and support the rule of law.

“A fair and impartial justice system is the essence of any democratic society,” says Avi Benlolo, President and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center. “We commend the Canadian government for this direct approach in re-allocating funds to support the development of a democratic Palestinian infrastructure. There has been significant concern about funds ending up in the hands of extremists,” Benlolo says.

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. It has 25,000 members across Canada, and confronts important contemporary issues including racism, antisemitism, terrorism and genocide. The Center 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 over 400,000 members of all faiths around the world, the Simon Wiesenthal Center has offices in New York, Miami, Paris, Jerusalem, Buenos Aires and Toronto.

Join the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies at the Spirit of Hope benefit on May 31, 2010. Visit www.spiritofhopebenefit.com

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