



MEDIA RELEASE: For Immediate Distribution

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies Commends Canadian Decision to Deport Alleged Rwandan War Criminal

Toronto- January 23, 2012: Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) commends the decision by the Canada Border Services Agency to deport alleged Rwandan war criminal Léon Mugesera. Mugesera, a former Rwandan government official, is implicated in the genocide of at least 800,000 Rwandans in 1994 following a speech 18 months earlier in which he advocated the expulsion and murder of ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus by his extremist Hutu followers.

“As we learned from the efforts of Nazi war criminals who hoped to find safe haven in Canada, there is and should never be a place in this country for people who are responsible for heinous crimes,” said Avi Benlolo, President and CEO of FSWC. “The Canadian government is to be commended on deporting Mugesera. Canada should not become a haven for war criminals and mass murderers,” he emphasized.

Mugesera has lived in Canada for close to 20 years, despite allegations that came to light in 1996 suggesting he helped incite the Rwandan genocide.

Media Contact

Stacey Starkman
Communications Manager
Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies
416.864.9735 x 32 – Office
416.524.3287 - Mobile