



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARINA NEMAT JOINS FSWC FACULTY

TORONTO – January 27, 2010 – Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) is pleased to welcome Marina Nemat to our faculty. In 1982, 16-year-old Nemat was arrested on false charges by Iranian Revolutionary Guards and tortured in Tehran's notorious Evin prison. At a time when most Western teenage girls were choosing their prom dresses, Nemat was having her feet beaten by men with cables and listening to gunshots as her friends were being executed. Marina's story is an extraordinary tale of faith and survival, and a testament to the power of love in the face of evil and injustice.

Marina joins the FSWC faculty, which hosted over 2,500 students in the fall of 2009 alone. FSWC tolerance education workshops continue to reach out to students across Ontario in 2010 with the message of empowerment. It is our youth who must create positive change. It is in our youth that we must nurture the leaders who will move us beyond hate and violence, into a world of peace, respect and tolerance.

Following her experience at FSWC, a Grade 12 student stated, "This should be made into a course every workplace should go through." A Grade 8 student left the workshop amazed that genocide continues to happen today. He asked the very important question, "Why am I only learning about this now?" Director of Education Melissa Mikel is encouraged by what is happening in the FSWC Tom & Anna Koffler Resource & Leadership Training Centre. "Students are leaving the classroom ready to raise their voice. They are learning about the impact of these historic events, and more importantly, about the need to move from indifference to action."

FSWC will continue to offer their workshops: *Lessons & Legacy of the Holocaust: A Survivor Speaks; Racism & Antisemitism in a Canadian Context; Genocide & the Power of Action; Who Was Simon Wiesenthal?;* and *Heroes Among Us*. Guest speaker, Rick Rotchild, engages students in his workshop on bullying – understanding causes and identifying strategies to bring about positive change. To further discuss workshops or to book a time for your class to attend, please contact Melissa Mikel at mmikel@fswc.ca or 416-864-9735.

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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. The Center currently has over 25,000 members across Canada, and confronts important contemporary issues including racism, antisemitism, terrorism and genocide. Visit www.fswc.ca for more information.

DIRECT ACTION

FSWC IS SUPPORTED BY CONCERNED CANADIANS. PLEASE CALL 416-864-9735 TO HELP MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE OR VISIT US AT WWW.FSWC.CA