



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies commends the Toronto District School Board for banning Israel Apartheid Week from Toronto schools**

**Toronto, March 2, 2010** – Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) commends the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) for its ethical stand on antisemitism and Israel Apartheid Week (IAW).

According to the TDSB website, “Our educational goal includes the building of understanding, trust and co-operation among groups and individuals in the TDSB. The event called “Israeli Apartheid Week” has the effect of fostering ill-will and disharmony among groups and individuals. The Government of Ontario and the opposition parties have unanimously adopted a resolution condemning “Israeli Apartheid Week”. The Toronto District School Board therefore affirms that "Israeli Apartheid Week" and its activities are not permitted to take place on school or Board property, or as part of any activity under the jurisdiction of the TDSB . . . “

“The TDSB has taken a principled stand against an event which is clearly racist and antisemitic in design, and extremely intimidating and frightening to a great many students confronted by the hatred embraced by this week,” said Avi Benlolo, President & CEO of FSWC. “I am heartened by these words, and encourage all school boards across Ontario and Canada to follow this precedent-setting decision.

In addition to the Ontario legislature and TDSB, IAW has been condemned by the Federal Conservative and Liberal Parties of Canada.

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