



# Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center For Holocaust Studies

 i Marvin Hier  
President & CEO  
Founder & Dean

Avi Benlolo  
President & CEO, Canada

March 23, 2009

Samuel Belzberg  
Honourary Chairman

Dr. Paul Hébert  
Editor, Canadian Medical Association Journal  
1867 Alta Vista Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1G 5W8

Gerald W. Schwartz  
Chairman


Lawrence S. Bloomberg  
Paul Bronfman  
Tony Comper  
Gordon R. Diamond  
Joel Feldberg  
Dr. Max Glassman  
Malka Green  
Rabbi Marvin Hier  
Rabbi Meyer H. May  
Philip Reichmann  
Honey Sherman  
Alex Shnaider  
Allan Silber  
Brian Steck  
Raymond Stone  
Richard Venn  
Sandra Waldman  
Cecil Yolles  
Board of Directors

Dear Dr. Hébert;

**RE: “On the ground in the Gaza strip” and “Gaza’s health care system crippled before – and after,” March 17, 2009**

Our organization, a UN-accredited NGO that safeguards the noble and precious legacy of Simon Weisenthal here in Canada but also throughout the world, has received numerous calls and e-mails from among our membership regarding the articles *“dispatched from the medical front”*.

These articles fail to provide readers with facts that are critical to the formation of a well-informed understanding of the current medical situation in Gaza. For example, what is the role of Hamas? In fact, we’re perplexed at how your journal omitted any reference to a group that, alas, plays such an important role in the region, and one that avows violence and abdicates its responsibility to protect its own citizens? Doctors, journalists and everyday citizens deserve better journalism.


David Asper  
 Bob Rae  
Core Sharp  
Lawrence Tanenbaum  
Mark Waldman  
Honourary Members

Leo Adler  
Director, National Affairs

Secondly, a reputable organization such as yours, that touts research and impartiality as part of its tenets, should have a better reflex when it comes to field research, even if it’s merely in relation to your “Dispatch” columns.

Garry Foster  
Chairman

Based solely on this latest edition of your journal, it appears you are inadvertently reinforcing a false and unhealthy notion that Israel is the sole perpetrator and actor in Gaza’s medical problems. It seems few people are motivated enough to: (a) feature Israel’s many actions to protect the lives of innocent civilians and (b) contrast these with those demonstrated by Palestinian terrorist groups and neighbouring Arab countries. Inadvertently, this type of journalism inspires anti-Semitic sentiments which, in turn, have been encouraging – believe it or not – intimidation and violence toward Jewish peoples around the world.

Joelle Adler Berdugo  
Walter Arbib  
Brad Ashley  
Norman Bacal  
Cecil Brauer  
Mitch Brown  
Merrick Falkenstein  
Alan Farber  
Jack Fine  
Jeremy Freedman  
Ron Frisch  
Joseph Gottdenker  
Allen Grinberg  
Tom Koffler  
Helene Korn  
Larry Maher  
Murray Menkes  
Oded Orgil  
Hymie Penn  
Jill Reitman  
Rick Sacks  
Mike Sereny  
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y Silverberg  
Hal Silverstein  
Arthur Stern  
Mark Teitelbaum  
Mark Wiesbarth  
Eddie Weisz  
Eric Weisz  
Board of Governors

If you or your journalists would like any background information in the future, you can reach out to us at any time. We will document and support our facts.



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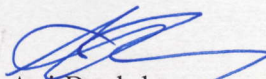
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I would also like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you and your staff to take part in one of our Sensitivity Training programs – either in Toronto at our Resource and Leadership Training Center or at your offices in Ottawa with a local FSWC representative. These have been used by governments, police forces, media, educators and ordinary citizens who wish to better understand the Middle East and the spread of racism and hate in our local communities. All of our resources are also at the disposal of Doctors4Wiesenthal, a group of doctors from among our 25,000 donors who have banded together to support our Center's cause for a more tolerant world devoid of unjust antisemitism.

Please feel free to give me a call at your convenience to discuss at 416-864-9735 x25.

Sincerely,



Avi Benlolo  
President & CEO

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center

