



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies concerned and dismayed by plans to increase expressions of hate in the 2010 Pride Parade

Toronto, April 14, 2010 – Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) remains concerned about the antisemitic hate speech in development by Queers against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) planning to attend this year's Gay Pride parade.

A March meeting of QuAIA in an auditorium at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) concluded with a statement that anti-Israel marchers would attend in "full force," clearly contradicting the intent of the parade organizers that the event should be "an inclusive experience for all."

According to Avi Benlolo, President & CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, "we remain extremely concerned that through their participation in the parade QuAIA will succeed in their efforts to incite hatred against Israelis and Jews," he said. "We recently commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day and clearly understand the devastating effects that follow when one group of people is singled out and marginalized. That Pride Toronto and the gay community of Toronto does not see and understand this is beyond belief," he added.

Attendees at the OISE meeting were shaken and appalled by the level of malice in evidence during the meeting. FSWC is particularly concerned about the safety of Jewish parade participants after the recent machete attack on two Carleton University students by men shouting antisemitic slurs in Arabic and English soon after Israeli Apartheid Week.

For more information on this issue please visit <http://reclaimingourpride.ca/>.

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