



**For immediate release**

**Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies commends Councillors  
Giorgio Mammoliti and David Shiner**

**Toronto- may 12, 2010** – Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) commends Toronto City Councillors Giorgio Mammoliti and David Shiner for sponsoring a motion to prevent the participation of Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (Quaia) in the city’s Gay Pride parade. FSWC notes the City of Toronto now has a window of opportunity to do the right thing and prevent hate groups like Quaia from fomenting hatred and discord in the annual parade.

“City Council has voted to send the question of funding for the parade to Executive Committee, where Councillors can send a clear message that the City will not bankroll hate speech and allow the Pride parade to be hijacked by a fringe group,” says Avi Benlolo, President and CEO of SWC. “We applaud the Councillors who have already made their objection to discrimination against the Jewish community known, and look forward to support from the rest of Council as they come to realize the intent and consequences of Quaia’s participation,” he adds.

Corporate sponsors have already begun distancing themselves from the Gay Pride parade. If Quaia is allowed to march in the parade, the City may find the Pride organization in contravention of both City and Pride anti-discrimination policies and vote to rescind funding and resources, which totaled approximately \$200,000 in 2009.

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