



**PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES
SIMON WIESENTHAL INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD
AT SPIRIT OF HOPE BENEFIT**



The Simon Wiesenthal International Leadership Award presented to Prime Minister Stephen Harper by FSWC leadership:
L-R: Avi Benlolo, Rabbi Marvin Hier, Prime Minister Harper, Rabbi Abe Cooper, Philip Reichmann, Allan and Hinda Silber,
Rabbi Meyer May

June 1, 2009 (Toronto) - The Prime Minister of Canada, The Right Honourable Stephen Harper was the recipient of the prestigious Simon Wiesenthal International Leadership Award on Sunday evening at Roy Thomson Hall. "The award is the highest honour bestowed by our organization and is respectfully named after Simon Wiesenthal, a man who dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice and human rights," said Rabbi Hier, Dean and Founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) board member, Canadian business icon and philanthropist, Philip Reichmann bestowed the award on the Prime Minister. According to Reichmann, "our Prime Minister uniquely understands that racism, antisemitism and intolerance of any nature are incongruous to Canadian democratic principles."

Allan and Hinda Silber were recognized for their tremendous effort as the evening's co-chairs. "We are thankful and appreciative of both Hinda and Allan for their commitment to FSWC and for the evening's success," said Avi Benlolo, President and CEO.

Among the 2000 people who attended the benefit were Jason Kenney, Minister for Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism; Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty; former Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard; Vice Prime Minister of Israel, Silvan Shalom; former US Secretary for Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff; SWC Dean and Founder, Rabbi Marvin Hier and John Bolton, former US Ambassador to the United Nations.

"We urged our donors and the broader community to stay committed to our organization during these difficult economic times, and the response has been remarkable," said Benlolo. "Canadians cannot afford to turn their back on community-based education programs and allow hate, bigotry and antisemitism to grow in their communities. This show of support, which included impressive government representation at all levels, helps us renew our drive to reach even more people in 2010."

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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. It has 25,000 members across Canada, and confronts important contemporary issues including racism, anti-Semitism, terrorism and genocide. The Center is affiliated with the world-wide, Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, an accredited Non-Government Organization with status at international agencies, including the United Nations, UNESCO, OSCE and the Council of Europe. With over 400,000 members of all faiths around the world, the Simon Wiesenthal Center has offices in New York, Miami, Paris, Jerusalem, Buenos Aires and Toronto. Simon Wiesenthal died in 2005 after devoting his life to preserving the memories of the victims of the Holocaust, while simultaneously seeking justice for the war criminals. Visit: www.fswc.ca.

DIRECT ACTION

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