



FRIENDS OF  
SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER  
FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies condemns statements by  
Deputy Leader of the NDP Libby Davies questioning Israel's right to exist**

**Toronto, June 15, 2010** – Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) condemns the outrageous comments made by Libby Davies, Deputy Leader of the NDP, implying that Israel has no right to exist as a sovereign nation.

“The statement that “the occupation started in 1948” seems to indicate that Ms. Davies considers Israel’s right to exist is questionable. This is a frightening position for the Deputy Leader of one of Canada’s major political parties to believe,” said Avi Benlolo, President and CEO of FSWC. “I applaud Jack Layton for refuting Ms. Davies’ attempts to rewrite NDP policy and appreciate his speed in responding to an issue of great significance to the Canadian Jewish community,” he added.

FSWC calls on Mr. Layton to go one step further by formally and publicly denouncing Ms. Davies’ position on Israel, and by holding her to account for her comments, made in an interview at a pro-Palestinian rally in Vancouver that was posted on [YouTube](#).

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