



UN's Holocaust Remembrance Day insincere

By Avi Benlolo, For The Calgary Herald January 28, 2010

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a historic resolution that designated January 27th as the annual International Day of Commemoration "in memory of the victims of the Holocaust." Wednesday also marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp. The resolution further "condemns without any reservation any denial of the Holocaust" and "urges all Member States to unreservedly reject any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event, either in full or in part, or any activities to this end."

While the resolution itself is encouraging and important, especially to the victims of the Holocaust, it is shameful for the UN to have waited for the 60th session of the General Assembly to officially commemorate the most heinous atrocity known to humanity. For this reason, Holocaust-based organizations like the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center doubt the sincerity of the United Nations designation.

The sincerity of the UN designation to commemorate the Holocaust and to discourage its denial is hypocritical when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is permitted to ascend the podium at the UN to promote anti-Semitism. Ahmadinejad has called the Holocaust a "myth", has hosted Holocaust denial conferences and cartoon contests and has threatened Israel, another UN member state, with annihilation.

It might be impossible to uphold the UN resolution to reject Holocaust denial in some parts of the Muslim world and beyond, but to permit it on UN property in the United States of America is contemptible and proves the insincerity of this resolution.

Furthermore, the UN General Assembly cannot operate in a vacuum. When it comes to Israel and the inalienable rights of the Jewish people, the UN member states behave like

abusive parents who periodically hug their children in between repeated and brutal beating incidents.

Israel continues to be victimized and raped by the United Nations. Of approximately 175 Security Council resolutions, 97 have been against Israel. One group found the cumulative number of votes cast with/ for Israel is approximately 7,938. Conversely, the cumulative number of votes cast against Israel is 55,642.

The six countries subjected to UN human rights criticism in 2008 -- in order of greatest to least -- were Israel, Sudan, Congo, Myanmar/ Burma and the United States. And, despite being among the first member states to join the UN, Israel continued to be excluded from regional groups and inclusion on various committees.

Let us not forget UN member bodies, commissions and organizations that have fomented anti-Semitism and hatred against the Jews. These include the International Criminal Court, the UN Human Rights Council, the infamous Gladstone Report and of course, the UN World Conference Against Racism -- a.k.a. the Durban Conference.

The United Nations' International Day of Commemoration is indeed helpful in disseminating information about the Holocaust and educating the millions of people around the globe whom we cannot otherwise reach. In the face of growing worldwide Holocaust denial it is undoubtedly a crucial tool. But proclaiming a special day simply does not go far enough: the UN must work to eradicate anti-semitism and hatred toward the State of Israel and its people -- prevalent in so many of its member states, to ensure that Holocaust Remembrance Day is an honest commemoration of six million souls extinguished by venomous hate.

Avi Benlolo is President and CEO of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies. He lives in Toronto.

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