



## **Iran's Holocaust Denial Conference December 11-12, 2006**

### Background

Iran's Foreign Ministry is hosting a conference on Dec. 11-12, entitled "Review of the Holocaust: Global Vision." Participants' names (approximately 60 people) have not been released, but they are expected to be Holocaust deniers, not scholars. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister admitted that the impetus for the conference was Ahmadinejad's comments about the Holocaust. Ahmadinejad has said that the Holocaust was a "myth."

### Talking points

- In many countries, Holocaust denial is a crime. Everywhere, it is an insult to human dignity and to the memories of the martyrs.
- The member states of the United Nations committed themselves to rejecting "any denial of the Holocaust as an historical event, either in full or part" in a General Assembly resolution that was adopted by consensus. Today, one country – Iran – has a president who denies the Holocaust and a government that actively promotes Holocaust denial.
- The convening of the conference comes on the heels of the government-sponsored Holocaust cartoon contest, for which grotesque depictions on Holocaust-related issues were sought. Fortunately, the people of Iran showed that they had far better judgment than their government and attendance was reported to have been 50 people per day despite heavy promotion.
- The announcement of the Holocaust conference describes Iran as a suitable venue "for scholars from both sides to give their papers in freedom and without preconceived ideas." Iran is a country where freedom of the press has been totally curtailed, objection to government policies can bring long prison terms and even death, where the government is responsible for countless deaths as a major state sponsor of terrorism, and where government leaders including the President have called for the destruction of another state and viciously attack Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and even other Moslems who do not conform to their extremist ideology.



# CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

## of Major American Jewish Organizations

- The Iranian conference gathers bigots, not scholars. Conference topics include:
  - “Gas Chambers; denial or confirmation.” Questioning whether Nazi gas chambers were used to kill Jews, or just to kill lice, is not an historical inquiry – it is an historic iniquity.
  - “Holocaust and carnage of Palestinians.” Not Jews, but Palestinians.
  - “Nazism and Zionism; cooperation or hostility.” They dare to discuss cooperation between the movement to exterminate the Jewish people and the movement for Jewish self-determination.
- The international community has committed itself to rejecting Holocaust denial and to preventing Iran from having nuclear weapons. These two commitments must be held together, because Iran is denying one Holocaust while planning to inflict another. Ahmadinejad has called to “wipe Israel off the map.”
- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s spokesman said on Dec. 7, “The Secretary-General personally believes that any attempt to cast doubt on the reality of this unique and undeniable horror must be firmly resisted by all people of goodwill and of whatever faith. The Secretary-General would deeply deplore any conference whose purpose is to question or deny the reality of the Holocaust.”
- The international community must speak as one to denounce this conference. We learned 70 years ago that messages and messengers of hate cannot be allowed to go unchecked. Ultimately, they will destroy not only their announced targets, but countless others. The United Nations, its member states, human rights groups and other non-governmental organizations, religious leaders of every faith, and the media must speak up forcefully to show that the outlaw regime of Iran is a pariah in the international community.