

Executive Council of Australian Jewry

**The Representative
Organisation of
Australian Jewry**



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MEDIA RELEASE

2 NOVEMBER 2006

Iranian Holocaust cartoon competition morally obscene

Grahame Leonard, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the peak body of the Australian Jewish community, has denounced an Iranian competition and exhibition of Holocaust cartoons following yesterday's announcement of winning entries.

“This exhibition has been deservedly condemned by every civilised nation. It is obscene for two reasons.

Firstly, it mocks the terrible suffering of the Jewish people during the Second World War. Some survivors are still alive today, elderly people who lost parents, siblings, spouses and children in horrific, unprecedented circumstances. This is the ultimate adding of insult to injury.

Secondly, this exhibition was inspired by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's tirades calling for Israel's extinction. As the exhibit curator Masoud Shojai said when announcing the prizes, the contest is to be an annual event. He continued, "Actually, we will continue until the destruction of Israel". That one member of the United Nations should call for another's destruction is more than asking for the removal of a political entity. It is quite simply a call for genocide.

The Australian Jewish community asks for all people of goodwill to condemn and oppose Iran's plans for nuclear capacity. This is a threat not just to Israel and the Jews, but to the entire world.”

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