

# Executive Council of Australian Jewry

**The Representative  
Organisation of  
Australian Jewry**



306 Hawthorn Road  
South Caulfield Vic 3162  
Australia  
Tel (03) 9272 5579  
Fax (03) 9272 5540  
E-mail: info@ecaj.org.au

**MEDIA RELEASE  
08 December 2006**

## **ECAJ condemns Iranian Holocaust conference**

Grahame Leonard, the President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the peak body of the Australian Jewish community, said today:

“The Iranian Government is seeking to further destabilise the Middle East situation by auspicing a Holocaust conference commencing next Monday.

This conference has no serious research purpose, but rather seeks to offend Israel, Jews world-wide and all civilised, decent people by mocking a tragedy that still lives in the memories of many survivors. In using the machinery of state in an attempt to exterminate a distinct group of humanity, the Holocaust was a uniquely evil event, one that must never be manipulated for crude political purposes.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has ensured the conference's outcomes by prejudging the Holocaust as a myth on various occasions in the past. His agenda is further demonstrated by the list of invited participants which includes notorious Holocaust-deniers such as Australian Frederick Toben. Finally Ahmadinejad has threatened genocide and mass destruction in Israel.

At a time when international tensions are running high about escalating problems in the Middle East, including Iran's efforts to obtain nuclear weaponry, this conference can only be seen as another act of provocation and brinkmanship. That it is so insulting to the memory of the millions who were cruelly murdered in the Holocaust ups the ante even more.

The Australian Jewish community calls upon the Australian and other governments to prevail upon Iran to cancel this monstrous event in the interests of world peace. It is not too late.”

Further information: Geoffrey Zygier  
Mobile: 0413 731 545  
Email: info@ecaj.org.au