

PRESS RELEASE

WINNIPEG JEWISH COMMUNITY ORGANIZES WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

January 11, 2007 - On **Raoul Wallenberg Day**, Wednesday, January 17, 2007, two hundred students will participate in a day-long program to learn about human rights abuses in Sub-Saharan Africa at Gray Academy of Jewish Education, 123 Doncaster Street.

Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat, is credited with saving over 100,000 Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust. In 2001, Canada proclaimed that on January 17th we would commemorate Raoul Wallenberg Day to remember the brave individual who perished immediately after the war and whose courage serves as a model for us all. Wallenberg's legacy - to respect human dignity across national, ethnic and religious differences and to act courageously to combat hate and prejudice - is taken up by those who work to protect and promote human rights in Canada and around the world.

The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and **Gray Academy of Jewish Education** have developed a unique program to commemorate Raoul Wallenberg Day. The day-long conference has a double objective: to bring awareness to students about human rights issues and to empower students to undertake initiatives and action plans.

The morning program will develop awareness of the history and issues in Sub-Saharan Africa with Distinguished Visiting Professor of Conflict Resolution at Menno Simons College, (U of W) Dr. Hamdesa Tusso. Students will also learn about real-life experiences of abuses through a series of workshops with facilitators from Sudan, Somalia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Congo.

During the afternoon, Judy Dueck of HURIDOCS (Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems) will empower students to develop action plans. Her session will be followed by student-led workshops to develop unique action plans and/or projects to respond to human rights issues in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Darfur.

Gray Academy has invited a number of local schools with students in Grades 9-12 to join them for the day.

Raoul Wallenberg Day continues in the evening, when Hillel/JSA (Jewish Students Association) and UMSU, among other sponsors, are presenting **Stephen Lewis**, former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, as a guest speaker. His talk, "The Silent Struggle, Gender and Race beyond the Canadian Border" will take place at 7:30 p.m., University Centre, University of Manitoba.

For further information on the School Program:

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