

7 July 2007

JBD RWANDAN GENOCIDE STATEMENT

Released on the 13th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide

The NSW Jewish community stands in solidarity with the victims of Rwanda.

One million people were murdered in 100 days, while the world stood by in silence. The atrocities were a crime against humanity.

It is the moral duty of all people of goodwill to join together in a coalition of conscience to denounce genocide, the crime of all crimes, and to prevent its recurrence.

Each year, the Jewish community commemorates the horrors of the Nazi tyranny. It recalls that six million Jews, including 1.5 million children, were murdered for no reason other than that they were Jews. We are determined and resolved to help rid the world of the scourge of racism and racist violence.

Wherever we see racially-motivated vilification, discrimination, violence or acts of genocide, Jewish communities will speak out.

And yet, despite the lessons of history, massacres such as in Rwanda, Cambodia and today Darfur demonstrate humanity's continuing capacity for barbarism.

Humanitarian intervention, including the use of force if necessary, is vital if we are to defend the human rights of the defenceless.

Released by Vic Alhadeff, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Jewish Board of Deputies

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