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SHALOM TV PRESENTS EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND PROTEST RALLY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Five-part telecast includes overview and student reaction, opening questions posed by Columbia University President Lee Bollinger, address by the Iranian President, follow-up audience Q&A, and exclusive network coverage of the anti-Ahmadinejad rally at the UN.

In exclusive and sweeping coverage, Jewish cable network Shalom TV is airing five special programs of events and speeches surrounding the recent visit of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Columbia University and the United Nations.

Included in the extensive presentations is an analysis of Jewish interests and academic freedom by former AIPAC Executive Director Neal Sher, as well as the full remarks of Columbia University President Lee Bollinger, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's address, a follow-up question and answer session with students and faculty, and major speeches from the anti-Ahmadinejad rally outside the United Nations.



Taking place September 24, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's participation at Columbia University's World Leaders Forum sparked strong reaction in the Jewish community given the Iranian President's public description of the Holocaust as a myth and his call for Israel to be "wiped off the map." Columbia University President Lee Bollinger defended the university's invitation, citing its longstanding tradition of serving as a major forum for robust debate.



Noted President Bollinger, "It should never be thought that merely to listen to ideas we deplore in any way implies our endorsement of those ideas, or the weakness of our resolve to resist those ideas, or our naiveté about the very real dangers inherent in such ideas. It is a critical premise of freedom of speech that we do not honor the dishonorable when we open the public forum to their voices."

In opening the forum, President Bollinger questioned Ahmadinejad's denial of the Holocaust, his public call for the destruction of the State of Israel, his reported support for international terrorism that targets innocent civilians and American troops, Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons in opposition to international sanction, and the government's widely documented suppression of civil society. Following the Iranian president's prepared remarks, audience questions dealt with Israel, the Holocaust, Iran's nuclear policy, the opportunities for American-Iranian talks, and the rights of women and homosexuals in Iran.

"As disturbing as it may be to give Ahmadinejad a platform at a prestigious American University, the Jewish community always benefits from a society which protects academic freedom and free speech," commented Shalom TV CEO Mark S. Golub. "Just as Jews are horrified anytime a university denies pro-Israelis an opportunity to speak on campus, the Jewish community must be prepared to extend the principal of academic freedom to those it abhors. I am proud that Shalom TV is giving television viewers the opportunity to see and hear these events in their entirety."

During the afternoon of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's address at Columbia University, and one day prior to his speech to the United Nations General Assembly, thousands gathered outside the UN in protest. Among those in attendance were Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations Executive Vice Chairman Malcolm Hoenlein (host of the Shalom TV series "Conference Briefs"), Guardian Angels Founder Curtis Sliwa, and the wife of Israeli soldier and Hezbollah captive Ehud Goldwasser. In a one-hour exclusive program, Shalom TV takes viewers to this historic event and offers complete coverage of speeches condemning Ahmadinejad.

Select video highlights from the event coverage have been placed on the Shalom TV Web site at www.shalomtv.com, as well as being made available to popular Internet video portals and online international news services.

Shalom TV is carried as a Video On Demand service on Comcast, the largest cable operator in America, and on Blue Ridge Communications. In addition to providing coverage of events of interest to the US Jewish community, the network televises news from Israel, feature films and documentaries with Jewish themes, original children's shows, programs on Judaism, a learning Hebrew series, and cultural offerings.

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Tzipi Livni (above) and Curtis Sliwa at the Protest Rally