April 14, 2009

Whereas, as a partisan in Lithuania during World War II, she fought back against the Nazis in defiance of their attempt to murder the Jews of Lithuania; and

Whereas, after the war she devoted herself to science and education, and her efforts over the decades in those areas clearly demonstrated that she never lost faith in the potential of humanity; and

Whereas, as a founder of Vilnius' Jewish Museum, she has memorialized the glory and the destruction, as well as the survival of Jewish life in Vilnius, the "Jerusalem of Lita;" and

Whereas, in all these efforts she has consistently demonstrated her commitment to fighting hatred and bigotry, to keeping alive the memory of the Holocaust and to educating future generations to avoid extremism and intolerance:

Therefore, the Simon Wiesenthal Center would like to join in hailing the contributions of Dr. Rochel Margolis. We commend Dr. Margolis for her life and her work, and wish her many more years of freedom from persecution and success in all her efforts.

Mark Weitzman
Director, Task Force Against Hate
Simon Wiesenthal Center