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AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADERS SPEAK OUT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

US House Ways & Means Committee Chairman Charles B. Rangel promises country will not trade with those who boycott Israel. Russell Simmons of Def Jam also comments.

During **Shalom TV's exclusive coverage** of the most recent meeting of the American Section of the [World Jewish Congress](#), two of the African-American community's most visible leaders were sharply critical of all expressions of anti-Semitism.



US REP. CHARLES B. RANGEL

Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-New York) noted the number of Jewish men and women and men who were instrumental in shaping his childhood and his political life--even reminding his audience that WJC President Edgar Bronfman helped launch his career in the House of Representatives.

In stirring words, the Congressman also expressed a profound commitment to the State of Israel in its war for survival against the Arab world.

"I'd rather be in a foxhole with a Jewish person in Israel than the whole Arab world in terms of what you're fighting for; because when you're fighting for what you believe, when you're fighting for what is right, when you're fighting for survival, to me that's a higher mission than if someone is fighting to destroy a people just because of hatred."

Addressing the Shalom TV cameras after his formal remarks, Representative Rangel stated his commitment to a democratic Israel as Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee.

"We have full jurisdiction over trade. And we make it abundantly clear that people who boycott against the great State of Israel do not trade with the United States of America.

"We have to let it be known in the Congress that if you're against Israel you're against democracy and you shouldn't be doing business with the greatest democracy of all--and that's the United States of America. We have to make that message clear not just for the State of Israel but for the integrity of the United States of America."



RUSSELL SIMMONS, DEF JAM

Hip-Hop entrepreneur and Def Jam Recordings company founder **Russell Simmons** also made a series of statements at the January 22 World Jewish Congress meeting, and later spoke with Shalom TV on how he became involved in leading a campaign against anti-Semitism.

"If you are African-American, you have experienced tons of racism. You've seen how nasty racism is. Of course you want to defend the Jews against anti-Semitism. It's the exact same thing. Racism is wrong in all its forms."

Shalom TV is a Jewish-oriented cable television network offering viewers unfiltered coverage of public events and press conferences, news from and about Israel, and discussions on topics of interest to the American Jewish community. The network also carries feature and documentary films; programming for children; Hebrew lessons, series on Parsha, Talmud, and Kabbalah; and cultural shows on cooking, travel, and lifestyle.

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