



THE MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE

September 1, 2009

Michael Santos
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Dear Mr. Santos,

I am writing to extend an invitation for you to speak at the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance as part of an ongoing special speakers program offering unique personal testimonies. First-person accounts, including testimony by Holocaust survivors, a reformed Neo-Nazi white supremacist, and a victim of discrimination during the Civil Rights era, among others, add a powerful dimension to the educational mission of the Museum of Tolerance and make a profound impression on our many visitors.

Among the hundreds of thousands of local, national and international visitors each year, the Museum of Tolerance importantly serves over 130,000 local youth in customized programs that advance civic engagement and promote the values of respect and responsibility. For example, the O.P.T.I.O.N.S. (Opportunities to Promote Tolerance and Increase Options for Nonviolence and Safety) program is a multi-prong intervention for youth referred by the Juvenile Justice System. This program offers support and life skills development for responsible choices and positive outcomes. Other initiatives for teens include the Service Learning Project, which advances civic engagement and meaningful service to the Los Angeles community, and the S.H.A.D.E.S. (Stopping Hate and Delinquency by Empowering Students) program, which prepares students to advance crime-prevention initiatives at their schools.

I believe that your account of your own experience that you have described in your new manuscript as "Earning Freedom", as a result of your long journey through prison, will provide valuable lessons for the Museum's audiences. As you write in your letter of July 30, 2009, to Rabbi Hier, the Founder and Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, "Viktor Frankl's writings convinced me to make something better with my life, to atone, to contribute to the lives of others." This message, together with your industrious pursuit of education and self-betterment, may well inspire and empower youngsters, especially those at risk of social and academic failure. It strongly supports the Museum's overarching theme of personal and social responsibility.

In the hope that you will be released shortly, I would like to explore the possibility for you to address appropriate programs at the Museum of Tolerance during the 2009-2010 academic year.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Liebe Geft
Director
Museum of Tolerance

cc: Rabbi Marvin Hier, Founder and Dean, Simon Wiesenthal Center
Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Associate Dean, Simon Wiesenthal Center