

## **St. F.X. prof in Iran for Holocaust deniers' conference**

His views or opinions are his own,' university says  
By JEFFREY SIMPSON Staff Reporter

A professor from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish is attending a controversial conference in Iran this week that has attracted Holocaust deniers from around the world.

Shiraz Dossa, who has taught political science at St. F.X. since 1988, was scheduled to discuss "Liberalism, Holocaust and war against Muslims" on Monday at the Adelaide Institute's two-day forum in Tehran called Review of the Holocaust: Global Vision.

"He is not representing St. F.X., obviously," Allan Gates, a university spokesman, said in an interview Tuesday. "He's there as an individual.

"His views or opinions are his own."

Mr. Dossa is listed in an online program for the conference as being affiliated with the University of Toronto, where he was a teaching fellow for two years and "succeeded, accidentally, in earning both an MA and PhD," according to a section about him on the St. F.X. website.

Mr. Gates said he wasn't aware of Mr. Dossa having any history of controversy while teaching at the university. St. F.X. officials didn't know the professor was attending the conference in Iran this week until the political science department was contacted Tuesday, Mr. Gates said.

Mr. Dossa teaches courses that include Third World Politics and Politics, Power and Culture: An Introduction. He has published essays titled Liberal Imperialism and Liberal Posturing.

"Shiraz Dossa was born and initially miseducated in a multiracial British colony in Africa where he did manage to acquire a BA (Honours) in political science, even though he did not relish wearing the mandatory undergraduate red gown for lunch and dinner," the St. F.X. website says.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has contended the Nazis' killing of six million Jews during the Second World War is a myth and has called for the elimination of Israel, told the conference that the days of the Jewish state are numbered, BBC news reported Tuesday.

"Just as the USSR disappeared, soon the Zionist regime will disappear," the BBC quoted him saying to the audience's applause.

Other participants of the conference included David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader, and Robert Faurisson, a French academic who was convicted in France for his denials of the Holocaust.

Jon Goldberg of the Atlantic Jewish Council in Halifax denounced the forum.

"Holocaust denial is the most virulent form of modern anti-Semitism," Mr. Goldberg said.

"I'm more than disappointed that a professor at one of Nova Scotia's most prestigious universities, who has some indirect control over shaping the minds of our future Canadians, would see fit to go over there."

Mr. Goldberg said the council would continue to look into the situation.

"I can't say whether the professor is a willing participant in an anti-Semitic, anti-Israel program or an unwilling pro-Palestinian professor conned into appearing," he said.

But he acknowledged the optics aren't good, comparing Iran's rulers to the Adolf Hitler Nazis.

"This is just another form of anti-Semitism and anti-western activity by the militant Islamic faction," he said.

Several people claiming to be Mr. Dossa's students have posted their opinions of his classes online at [ratemyprofessors.com](http://ratemyprofessors.com).

"We were supposed to study Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and the like but instead we watched the Daily Show and listened to him rail against all his various hatreds," one person wrote about a History of Political Thought course.

"Funny how he lives and collects a generous salary in the part of the world he ridicules for a living."

Another complained about Mr. Dossa's tendency to mark hard.

"Dr. Dossa (he's very proud of his PhD) rants all day about George Bush," the poster also wrote. "I still do not know anything about political science. The exams and paper topics are ridiculous. There is no textbook."

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## **Iran: Israel will be "wiped out"**

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran—Iran's hard-line president said Tuesday that Israel will be one day be "wiped out" just like the Soviet Union was, drawing applause from participants in a world conference casting doubt on the Nazi Holocaust during the Second World War.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's comments were likely to further fuel the outcry sparked by his hosting of the two-day gathering, which has gathered some of Europe and the United States' most well-known Holocaust deniers.

Anger over the conference could have political fallout, further isolating Iran and prompting a harder line from the West, which is considering sanctions against Tehran in the standoff of its nuclear program.

But Ahmadinejad appeared to revel in his meeting Tuesday with the conference delegates, shaking hands with American delegates and sitting near six anti-Israeli Jewish participants, dressed in black ultra-Orthodox coats and hats.

Ahmadinejad repeated predictions that Israel will be "wiped out," a phrase he first used in a speech in October, raising a firestorm of international criticism.

"The Zionist regime will be wiped out soon the same way the Soviet Union was, and humanity will achieve freedom," Ahmadinejad told the participants during Tuesday's meeting in his offices, according to the official IRNA news agency.

He said elections should be held among "Jews, Christians and Muslims so the population of Palestine can select their government and destiny for themselves in a democratic manner."

"By the grace of God, the arc of the Zionist regime's life has reversed and is heading downward. This is a divine promise and the public demand of all nations of the world," he said, bringing applause from the delegates.

Ahmadinejad has used anti-Israeli rhetoric and comments casting doubt on the Holocaust to rally anti-western supporters at home and abroad, particularly in Asia and the Middle East. Several times he has referred to the Holocaust as a "myth" used to impose the state of Israel on the Arab world.

Ahmadinejad announced that the conference had decided to set up a "fact-finding commission" to determine whether the Holocaust happened or not. The commission will "help end a 60-year-old dispute," the president said.

He called on western governments "not to harrass members of this commission and allow them to carry out more research and make all issues transparent."

The Tehran conference was touted by participants and organizers as an exercise in academic free expression, a chance to openly consider whether six million Jews really died in the Holocaust far from laws in several European countries that ban questioning some details of the Nazi genocide during the Second World War.

It gathered 67 writers and researchers from 30 countries, most of whom argue that either the Holocaust did not happen or was vastly exaggerated. Many had been jailed or fined in France, Germany or Austria, which have criminalized Holocaust denial.

Participants milled around a model of the Auschwitz concentration camp brought by one speaker, Australian Frederick Toben, who uses the mock-up in lectures contending that the camp was too small to kill mass numbers of Jews. More than one million people are estimated to have been killed there.

Rabbi Moshe David Weiss, one of six members attending from the group Jews United Against Zionism, told delegates in his address, "We don't want to deny the killing of Jews in the Second World War, but Zionists have given much higher figures for how many people were killed."

"They have used the Holocaust as a device to justify their oppression," he said. His group rejects the creation of Israel on the grounds that it violates Jewish religious law.