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Lt.-Gen. Romeo Dallaire, Former U.N. Commander in Rwanda, Will Speak on Oct. 12

Unsupported by United Nations Despite His Pleas, He Was Unable to Stop the 1994 Rwanda Genocide

ORANGE, Calif., Sept. 22, 2006 Lieutenant-General The Honorable Romo A. Dallaire, human rights advocate and former commander-in-chief of the United Nations Observer Mission-Uganda and Rwanda (UNOMUR) and the U.N. Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), will speak at Chapman University on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. in Chapman Auditorium in Memorial Hall. The lecture -- part of Chapman's Holocaust Lecture Series is free and open to the public; however, seating is limited and by ticket only. Tickets are available to the Chapman community (students, faculty and staff) in advance, and may be picked up in the Sala and Aron Samuelli Memorial Holocaust Library, on the fourth floor of the Leatherby Libraries, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Members of the public may request remaining tickets by calling (714) 628-7377 beginning Oct. 2; these tickets will be held at will-call in the Memorial Hall foyer on the evening of the lecture. The audience is asked to bring canned goods to donate to Second Harvest Food Bank.

The Canadian-born Dallaires lecture, *Bearing Witness for Rwanda: One Mans Story of Courage and Conviction*, will recall his experiences during the terrible 100 days between April 6 and July 16, 1994, when more than 800,000 people were brutally murdered in the small African country of Rwanda. The victims, killed horrifically by Hutu extremists -- many hacked to death with machetes -- were Tutsis and the moderate Hutus who supported them.

Lt.-Gen. Dallaire, a decorated Canadian Armed Forces officer, was tasked by the United Nations to ensure that peace was maintained in Rwanda. However, unsupported by the U.N. and its Security Council, he and his handful of soldiers were not able to stop the genocide, even as Dallaire pleaded for reinforcements and revised rules of engagement. He was limited by immovable parameters, overseen by an organization that didn't fully support the mission, and put into situations that forced him to question ethics every step of the way. Dallaire remains convinced that, given a few thousand more troops and a mandate to act preemptively, he could have stopped the killings.

Dallaire and his forces saved thousands of Rwandans, but his failure to save more lives at that time of extreme crisis has preyed on him since then. His bestselling book, *Shake Hands With the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*, is bitterly critical of the United Nations and world leaders who chose to do nothing while Rwanda collapsed and hundreds of thousands died. A film documentary on Dallaire, also entitled *Shake Hands With the Devil*, has been released and won top honors at the Sundance, Toronto and Philadelphia film festivals.

This event is part of The 1939 Clubs Leopold Page Memorial Righteous Rescuers Lecture Series at Chapman University, presented by Chapmans Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education and

co-sponsored by Associated Students, with the support of the First Year Program, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. The 1939 Clubs Leopold Page Memorial Righteous Rescuers Lecture Series is funded by a generous grant from Steven Spielbergs Righteous Persons Foundation. Mr. Page, Number 173 on Schindlers List, was a founding member and president of The 1939 Club, one of the largest and most active Holocaust survivor organizations in the United States.