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Holocaust denier to face charges

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THE Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) is launching legal action against the Adelaide Institute's Dr Frederick Toben for his failure to obey a court order to remove antisemitic material from his website.

But the ECAJ will have to wait until Dr Toben returns from Iran, where he is pushing his revisionist views at a conference on "Holocaust history", to serve the 62 year old with contempt-of-court papers.

In a landmark ruling in 2002, a Federal Court of Australia judge ordered Dr Toben to remove anti-Jewish material from his website.

Justice Catherine Branson ordered the removal of the material, claiming it was likely to "offend, insult, humiliate and intimidate" Australian Jews, and banned him from republishing any similar material anywhere on the internet or by any other means.

The judgement stated that should Dr Toben continue to publish the material, he would be found guilty of contempt of court, an offence that could result in a jail sentence.

ECAJ president Grahame Leonard told the AJN the new material was "more of the same" Holocaust-denial propaganda.

Dr Toben is currently in the Iranian capital at a conference on "Review of the Holocaust: global vision", which is being presented by Iran's Institute for Political and International Studies. According to the conference's website, the event is marketed to those interested in clarifying the "hidden and open corners" of the Holocaust.

Dr Toben, who served seven months in a German prison in 1999 for inciting racism, has been quoted in the Iranian Tehran Times, which supports the anti-Israel regime of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, that Hitler's extermination of six-million Jews and the existence of gas chambers had not been proven.

The ECAJ's national Report on antisemitism in Australia, which was tabled at last week's annual conference by its author, Jeremy Jones, reported increases in web-based antisemitism, including on popular video site YouTube.