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Statement from Simon Greer, President & CEO, Jewish Funds for Justice August 4, 2010

On Monday, July 26, I attended a meeting with Fox CEO Roger Ailes and SVP of Development Joel Cheatwood. I joined Rabbi Steve Gutow and Rabbi David Ellenson, representing more than a dozen heads of major Jewish organizations. For forty-five minutes we discussed the use of rhetoric by Fox News host Glenn Beck that invoked the Holocaust or Nazi Germany. We left this meeting with the impression that Mr. Ailes and Mr. Cheatwood understood our concerns about Mr. Beck's frequent misuse of this language and would take steps to address it.

When I received an email immediately following the meeting from Mr. Cheatwood saying he would speak to Mr. Beck, and a handwritten note from Mr. Beck a few days later, it reinforced the impression that they had followed through on that commitment.

Yesterday, in an [article by Yahoo News](#), I was quoted praising the outcome of the meeting and saying that Fox News shared our belief "that the use [of Holocaust rhetoric] did cross a line." Cheatwood [responded to the article](#) in a most surprising and disheartening manner: "The story basically -- as I read it -- indicated that Roger Ailes and myself had agreed with Greer. We absolutely stood behind Glenn Beck 1000%."

Jewish leaders and others concerned about this issue were encouraged to hear that Fox News was addressing their concerns. Mr. Cheatwood's comments will make them reconsider their enthusiasm. After muddying the water yesterday, Fox News has a responsibility to make it clear whether or not they believe Mr. Beck has been responsible in his frequent invocation of the Holocaust and Nazi Germany to attack those with whom he disagrees.

Links:

Yahoo News, Beck's Holocaust comments prompt Fox News meeting

http://news.yahoo.com/s/yblog_upshot/20100803/cm_yblog_upshot/becks-holocaust-comments-prompt-fox-news-meeting

Media Bistro, Fox News SVP Disagrees with Account of Beck Meeting

http://www.mediabistro.com/tvnewser/fnc/fox_news_execs_meet_following_beck_holocaust_comments_169644.asp

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Jewish Funds for Justice (JFSJ) is a national public foundation guided by Jewish history and tradition. JFSJ helps people in the United States achieve economic opportunity and security by investing in healthy neighborhoods, vibrant Jewish communities, and skillful leaders. Our holistic approach to social change includes grantmaking and community investing, service learning and leadership development, organizing and advocacy.