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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mossawa Center to host NGO's Conference on the Status and Development of Arab Civil Society During the Days of Mossawa Festival

HAIFA, ISRAEL, 20/11/06 – On November 28, 2006, the Mossawa Center, the Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel, will host a conference for NGOs to focus on the development of Arab Civil Society. This conference will be held as part of the Second Annual Days of Mossawa Festival in Nazareth, Israel, from November 25 through December 1.

The first panel of the conference will include the publication of the “Mossawa Center Guide to Fundraising from Governmental Institutions.” The purpose of this panel is to discuss how to strategically obtain funding from the government. Panelists include representatives from the Mossawa Center, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Justice, and the counseling committee, “Knesset Fund for the Needy.”

The second panel, “International Foundations in Israel: Cooperation and funding opportunities,” aims to inform NGOs about the various funding possibilities from international foundations in Israel so that they can be aware of calls for proposals, and submit applications for projects. Most Arab NGOs are not aware of various funding opportunities through international foundations in Israel. This panel will provide insight into these opportunities in the hope to empower smaller NGOs. The panelists include representatives from the European Commission, the Abraham Fund, and the Moriah Fund.

The conference will conclude with a roundtable debate on the relationship between Arab civil society and political parties in Israel. The discussion is planned to revolve around the cooperation (or lack thereof) of political parties and civil society organizations when it comes to advocacy before the Knesset on behalf of Arab citizens in Israel. Additionally the panel will debate the roles of political parties and NGOs within Arab society in Israel and ways to increase their effectiveness. Discussants include representatives from the Communist Party, Dehamshe Islamic Movement, BALAD, Ittijah, Arab Association for Human Rights, Al-Zahra', and Shatil.

The NGO conference will take place at the Al-Ein Hotel in Nazareth, Israel, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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