

MOSSAWA CENTER ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2020



مركز مساواة لحقوق المواطنين العرب في اسرائيل
Mossawa Center The Advocacy Center For
Arab Citizens In Israel

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INTRODUCTION

The beginning of the unexpected coronavirus pandemic created a great sense of uncertainty for the Mossawa Center's plans for 2020. Nonetheless, through our hard work and great team effort, as well as with help from our partners, we were able to fulfill most of our goals for the year 2020 in Jisr Az-Zarqa, our Solidarity project, Carmel Community Center, State budget analysis, international advocacy, and the empowerment of the Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel.

COVID-19

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the Palestinian Arab community in Israel had to deal with another major problem: deliberate neglect by the Israeli government's response to the outbreak. On top of the already existing gaps in healthcare services in the Palestinian Arab community, the Israeli government deliberately ignored the needs and demands of Palestinian citizens of Israel when it came to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the Mossawa Center stepped in to lead an intense advocacy and awareness campaign to help the Palestinian Arab community in Israel cope with the pandemic. We were also a part of the Arab Emergency Room which responded to the various issues that faced Palestinian Arab localities in their fight against COVID-19.

Health Services and Testing

At the outset of the outbreak, testing facilities and healthcare services were concentrated exclusively in major Jewish localities. However, following intense advocacy, the Mossawa Center successfully pushed for the establishment of testing sites in the major Arab localities of Nazareth, Umm al-Fahm, Taybeh, Rahat, Tira, and the Triangle area. Additionally, COVID-19 clinics and treatment facilities were opened in various Palestinian Arab localities, as well as quarantine centers for



infected patients. Moreover, the Mossawa Center efforts ensured the equal allocation of respirators and other medical equipment, as well as providing priority testing, care, and training for senior care teams & strengthening nursing home care in the Palestinian Arab community.



Information Availability

One of the gravest dangers to public health and safety in the Palestinian Arab community was the lack of information and guidance provided to it by the government. Thus, the Mossawa Center advocated the Health Ministry to

provide information in Arabic about the outbreak on its website. Moreover, we launched a dedicated page in Arabic on its website that concentrates and translates all relevant and vital information for the Palestinian Arab community regarding the virus. Working with the High Follow Up Committee, the Mossawa Center raised awareness about necessary precautions and actions the community must take. In addition, the Mossawa Center hosted a number of live Q&A sessions about the virus and how to stay safe with Dr. Mogher Khamaisi, Director of the Department of Internal Medicine “D” at Rambam Health Care Campus.

Welfare and Food Security

Food scarcity and welfare services emerged as another major problem facing the Palestinian Arab community disproportionately. In response, the Mossawa Center demanded the Ministry of Welfare expand its aid programs and provide Palestinian Arab families in need with food packages and advocated for the allocation of 450,000 hot meals for the elderly. Additionally, the Mossawa Center pushed for the distribution of 300,000 coupons worth NIS 300 (about \$80) each for families in need, helped people apply for unemployment benefits, and secured and allocated over 400 food packages to families in need in Haifa. We advocated to secure NIS 700 million (\$213 million) for poor Palestinian Arab families from the government’s Food Security Program.

Students Abroad

Many Palestinian Arab students were stranded in universities abroad, especially in Italy, a country heavily impacted by the virus. The Mossawa Center, in cooperation with the Palestinian Arab Knesset Members, advocated to bring Palestinian Arab students back home safely from around the world. Moreover, we were directly involved in organizing flights from Italy to bring back 268 students and worked with the Ministry of Health to bring the students to quarantine locations in order to ensure their safety. The Mossawa Center also ensured that a dozen students returning from Jordan who were diagnosed with the virus were transported to treatment facilities and quarantined at a hospital in Tel Aviv.

National Coordination and Management

To ensure that its efforts were carried out and maintained successfully throughout the Palestinian Arab community, the Mossawa Center, in cooperation with the High Follow Up Committee, the National Committee for the Heads of the Arab Local Authorities in Israel, and other NGOs, established a robust network to effectively manage and coordinate all our efforts through the Galilee Society. It established a headquarters in mixed cities (such as Haifa) and major Palestinian Arab localities to coordinate activities between organizations and extend our reach to all members of the community. It also established headquarters in the Negev to coordinate community activities in the unrecognized Bedouin villages. The Mossawa Center also communicated and coordinated with local municipalities to effectively allocate resources and report data to relevant government ministries and bodies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND STATE BUDGET

The Mossawa Center has been monitoring the annual State budget in Israel since 1999, and has consistently published reports on the needs and demands of the Palestinian Arab community with regards to the State budget, and compared it with the amount of funding it receives in reality. The Mossawa Center is the only Arab organization in Israel to conduct an annual analysis of the needs of the Palestinian Arab community from the State budget.

State Budget and Economic Development Conference



The Mossawa Center, in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Culture Palace of the Zimmer Local Council, located in the Triangle Area, held on November 5th its annual State Budget and Economic Development Conference, which recommended immediate action be taken to secure the funds meant for the Palestinian Arab community from the 2020 budget, especially in the fields of industrial zones, employment and

vocational training, health, education, culture, and housing. The conference also recommended that Palestinian Arab local authorities, Knesset members, and political parties work immediately to demand NIS 6.4 billion (\$2 billion) from the 2021 budget, a sum which had already been presented to the Finance Ministry, other government ministries, and Knesset committees.

Palestinian Arab Women's Needs from the State Budget



In the lead up to the conference, the Mossawa Center, in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, hosted a virtual roundtable in September to discuss the demands of Palestinian Arab women from the State budget. A work plan was drafted regarding elevating the status of women in the country, and special

emphasis was put on the needs of women with regards to the State budget. The discussion included female, Palestinian Arab Knesset Members Aida Touma Sliman, Heba Yazbak, Iman Khatib-Yasin, Sondos Saleh of the Joint List, and 58 women leaders in their respective localities.

State Budget Analysis Workshop

The Mossawa Center hosted a special workshop for Knesset Members and parliamentary staff on the State budget aimed at informing them about the important aspects of the State budget that impact Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel the most and equipping them with the knowledge and tools to effectively advocate for the needs and demands of the community in that context.

Hosted in Nazareth, the largest Palestinian Arab city in Israel, the workshop was attended by Knesset Members Dr. Heba Yazbek, Sondos Saleh, and Sami Abu Shehadeh of the Joint List and their staffers, as well as staffers of many other Joint List MKs. Mossawa Center reviewed the Budget Law and Arrangements Law to highlight means through which the Palestinian Arab community can gain access to more government budgets and monitor the spending of such funds.

Industrial Zones

In addition to State budget advocacy, special emphasis was placed on the development of industrial zones in Palestinian Arab localities this year. In August, the Mossawa Center, in cooperation with the National Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Authorities, members of Joint List's economic development team, and the Friedrich Ebert



Foundation held a meeting in the municipality of Umm al-Fahm to discuss the lack of industrial zones in Palestinian Arab localities in Israel. The meeting was attended by over 30 representatives from local authorities, political parties, civil society, and the private sector.

At the Mossawa Center's initiative, an Industrial Zones Task Force was established to develop industry in the Arab community. A follow-up team was formed to pursue the issue of industry, with representatives from the National Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Authorities, several NGOs, and the Knesset Members. The team met with David Leffler, the Director of the Ministry of Economy and Industry.

Poverty and Welfare

In July, the Mossawa Center organized a roundtable discussion with Knesset Members, NGO leaders, and community leaders in Jisr Az-Zarqa to discuss the demands of the Palestinian Arab community with regards to welfare services, poverty, and the State budget. Following the roundtable, a discussion was held with MKs Heba Yazbek, Sondos Saleh, and Iman Khatib of the Joint List to discuss and address the specific challenges facing the residents of Jisr Az-Zarqa, ranging from poverty, economic stagnation, and welfare. Before the pandemic, about 50% of Palestinian Arab families lived under the poverty line, and given the economic hardship caused by COVID-19, that number is sure to rise along with the unemployment rate.

JISR AZ-ZARQA



The Palestinian Arab village of Jisr Az-Zarqa - the poorest locality in Israel despite being the only Palestinian Arab locality with a shoreline - has been the Mossawa Center's flagship development project over the past several years. This year saw unprecedented activity and progress take place in the village.

In July, escorted by heavily armed police equipped with assault rifles and bulletproof vests, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority demolished a shack belonging to Ali Jurban, a local fisherman in Jisr Az-Zarqa, in July. Following the demolition, the demolition team simply left the village, leaving Jurban and the people of Jisr Az-Zarqa to clean up the rubble. That same day, the Mossawa Center organized a demonstration against the demolition and mobilized the people of Jisr Az-Zarqa and other activists to raise awareness about the issue to the public.

At the same time, with the help of lawyer Rana Jarban, the Mossawa Center was able to prevent the demolition of the sports and fishing building in Jisr Az-Zarqa, owned by the only fisherwoman in the village Hamama Jarban. The court issued a temporary freeze order to prevent the demolition until the case is heard before the court. The village suffers from a policy of impoverishment and suffocation, with most of its residents living

off work outside the village. Fishing is the main source of livelihood for a limited number of families who have remained in the fishermen's village, despite ongoing persecution. All fishermen in the area suffer from instability and anxiety for the future because of the constant threat to their livelihood. As in the case of Hamama, fishing, swimming, and diving are a source of livelihood for her family of 10.

The Mossawa Center also advocated for the establishment of an early childhood care center and kindergarten in the village. A project several years in the making, the center was officially opened in late 2020. In addition, the Mossawa Center completed an Early Childhood & Kindergarten Training Program and



Nursing Training Program in Jisr Az-Zarqa, as part of a joint project with the local council. Over 50 kindergarten teachers participated in the Early Childhood & Kindergarten workshop aimed at addressing the importance of being a supportive teacher and developing healthy communication skills with parents and their children. In another initiative led by the Mossawa Center, in cooperation with the Jisr Az-Zarqa local council and funded by the Ministry of Health and Economic Development Authority, over 50 participants took part in a Nursing Training Program. At the same time, we helped secure NIS 85 million (\$25 million) in governmental financial aid for the Jisr Az-Zarqa local council.

LEGAL ADVOCACY

As part of the Mossawa Center's legal advocacy, it acts against discriminatory legislation in Israel through litigation, advocacy, and other means. In 2020, it focused on two particular laws that have had a significant impact on Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel. The first is the "Citizenship Law" (*Nationality and Entry Into Israel Law*), which prevents Palestinians and residents of "enemy states" from gaining citizenship, or permanent residency, through marriage to an Israeli citizen. The purported justification for the law is that of national security. Decades of conflict in the Middle East conflict have divided many families, and it is common for marriages to occur between Palestinians from the other side of the Green Line (the 1949 Armistice Demarcation Line). The *Citizenship Law* therefore constitutes an undue restriction on family life for the affected Palestinian Arab

population and has drawn considerable opposition from the Palestinian Arab community and human rights groups.

The other law which the Mossawa Center has acted against is known as the “Kaminitz Law” (the *April 2017 Amendment to the Planning and Building Law – 1965*), which criminalizes building violations and intensifies enforcement of the law through increased home demolitions, larger fines, and heavier sentences for offenders. The Israeli government’s deliberate unwillingness to approve master plans for Palestinian Arab localities and distribute building permits has left many Palestinian Arab citizens with no option other than to build and inhabit structures that are not officially recognized (i.e. without a permit). Hence, the *Kaminitz Law* disproportionately affects Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel and severely stifles development in Palestinian Arab localities. The *Kaminitz Law* is one of the major driving forces behind the demolitions threatening the residents of Jisr Az-Zarqa whom the Mossawa Center has been working throughout the year.

In addition to combating discriminatory legislation, the Mossawa Center also acts against unjust or illegal acts by government bodies. One of our biggest successes in this field of advocacy has been the appointment of a Palestinian Arab as Director of Economic Development Authority for the Arab Society. The Mossawa Center strongly opposed and petitioned against the appointment of a Jewish employee to the position by former Minister for Social Equality Gila Gamliel, as the position has always been occupied by a Palestinian Arab given its significant relevance to that community. The Ministry suspended the temporary appointment following the petition.

In the wake of the Mossawa Center’s petition, the Ministry announced the appointment of a committee to select a director for the Economic Development Authority, headed by the Director-General of the Ministry for Social Equality, Yael Mevorach. About 120 people, including former heads of local authorities, applied for the position. On Nov. 11, the Minister for Social Equality announced that she agreed to the recommendation of the selection committee and appointed Hassan Tawafra for the position.

The Mossawa Center has also placed particular emphasis on challenging police violence. It accompanied the family of Eyad Abdallah - a Palestinian Arab citizen of Israel who was unjustly killed by Israeli police in Jerusalem in 2016 - through their court trial to bring justice for their lost loved one. In addition, the Mossawa Center continued to follow up on the case involving the beating of our founder and General Director, Jafar Farah, at the hands of Israeli police officers while in custody following a peaceful protest in 2018. Farah was brutally and unjustly beaten by an Israeli police officer while in custody at the

police station, resulting in his knee breaking.

SOLIDARITY

2020 marked a string of successes in the Mossawa Center’s Project Solidarity which aims to build bridges between the Palestinian Arab community and various other marginalized groups in Israel such as the Russian, Mizrahi, and Ethiopian communities. By building a sense of solidarity between these groups, the Mossawa Center and its partners hope to establish a stronger network for advocacy and justice in Israel that will promote the civil, democratic, and human rights of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel and other members of marginalized communities in the country.

Solidarity Workshop in Jisr Az-Zarqa

The Mossawa Center organized a 3-day solidarity art workshop in Jisr Az-Zarqa with Russian artists, which culminated in a special ceremony where 12 pieces of artwork created by Russian and Palestinian Arab artists were donated to various institutions in Jisr Az-Zarqa. We at the Mossawa Center took it upon ourselves to move some of the paintings to the village’s newly constructed daycare center, a project the Mossawa Center led and pushed for.



The ceremony was attended by the group of artists along with representatives of the Mossawa Center, the German embassy, and representatives of the village's schools and local council. This workshop was a part of the Mossawa Center's campaign to build solidarity between the Palestinian Arab community and other marginalized groups in Israel to help build a coalition advocating for and demanding peace and equality.

Solidarity Conference

The Mossawa Center held a conference titled “From Solidarity to Change” on December 11 in Tel-Aviv/Jaffa. The conference focused on building and fostering multi-ethnic

solidarity between the Palestinian Arab community in Israel and other marginalized groups and was attended by activists and representatives from various NGOs and former Knesset Members.

The panelists in the conference discussed a wide range of issues including the history and struggles of the Palestinian Arab community and other marginalized groups in Israel, as well strategies and visions for multi-ethnic solidarity and building a multicultural society.



Prior to the conference, we had a two-week art exhibition where over 30 paintings from the 3-day workshop were on display at the Jaffa Theater. The opening of the exhibition was attended by the artists of the paintings from both communities, as well as representatives from the German, Russian, and Canadian embassies.



Combating Police Brutality Through Solidarity

In October, the Mossawa Center hosted a panel discussion titled Police Violence Against Ethnic Minorities in Israel, with the participation of former MK and Head of the High Follow Up Committee for Arab Citizens of Israel Mohammad Barakeh, Spokesperson for

the Families of the Victims of the October 2000 Demonstrations. Professor Mahmoud Yazbak, human rights activist and Dor Moriah board member Dr. Michael Moore, former Chairman of the Association of Alumni of Russian and USSR Universities Dr. Samir Khatib, and Mossawa Center General Director and founder Jafar Farah.

The event, held in Arabic and Russian simultaneously, provided a conclusion to the series of events held by the Mossawa Center to mark the 20th anniversary of the October 2000 Demonstrations, where 13 Palestinian Arab civilians were killed by Israeli police. The discussion highlighted the unending police brutality and discrimination against the Palestinian Arab community in Israel.

Over 1,000 people, mainly immigrants to Israel from Russia speaking countries, participated in the event virtually, with physical attendance following Ministry of Health guidelines. The discussion raised an important issue among the Russian-Israeli community with regards to October 2000, as well as the possible mechanisms of cooperation between the Russian and the Palestinian Arab communities.

Throughout the year, the Mossawa took an active part in two distinct struggles against police violence: Solomon Teka and the Ethiopian community's struggle, and the struggle of Palestinian Arab citizens against police brutality that has been intensifying in recent years.

The Nation-State Law and Solidarity Building



The Mossawa Center hosted a webinar titled *Second Class by Law: Challenging Two Years of Nation-State Law Through Solidarity* on July 22 - the date on which the Nation-State Law was enacted two years ago - to discuss the ramifications of this Basic Law on Palestinian Arab citizens and other marginalized groups, as well as how those communities are challenging the discriminatory law by building solidarity between them.

Moderated by Jafar Farah, panelists Orly Noy, Morad Elsana, and Netta Amar-Shiff addressed, through the case study of the Mizrahi community's appeal against the Nation-State Law, the racist nature of the law, and the implications it has with regards to excluding Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel and Jewish ethnic minorities from the

physical and cultural space in Israel.

Our panelists agreed that in many ways the Nation-State Law justified the seven decades-long ethnic and cultural exclusion of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel (and by extension the Mizrahi community), which, according to Noy, considers the State of Israel a “villa in the jungle” of the Middle East. This perception is directly related to the racist practices and discrimination of the State of Israel towards the Palestinian Arab community. Our discussion ended with the unanimous agreement regarding the importance of building multi-ethnic solidarity between Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel and Jewish ethnic groups suffering from exclusion, racism, and discrimination.

THE CARMEL COMMUNITY CENTER

The Carmel Community Center - the home of the Mossawa Center and the Committee for Educational Guidance for Arab Students (CEGAS) - has become a political, social, and cultural hub for the Palestinian Arab community in Israel, particularly for Palestinian Arab youth groups. The Mossawa Center has undertaken the task of renovating and revitalizing the Carmel Community Center, which hosts a variety of organizations working nationally and internationally. The Carmel Center is the birthplace of various NGO and community-based initiatives that benefit from the support and resources provided by the Carmel Center and the Mossawa Center team daily. The Carmel Center has become a safe place for Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel to freely express themselves.

Protecting and Promoting Palestinian Arab Culture - Establishing the Salman Natour Library

Following the end of the first lockdown in Israel, the Mossawa Center hosted a two-day cultural program at its headquarters in the Carmel Center in May. The program, a part of the Mossawa Center's larger campaign to protect minority cultural rights and combat the



extremely high rate of violence in the Palestinian Arab community, emphasized the importance of culture, art, and literature in combating such issues and promoting a more

rich and prosperous community. With the Israeli government's relentless persecution by shutting down countless Palestinian Arab cultural centers, the Mossawa Center invited families to participate in a variety of activities and events, ranging from reading and literature to musical performances and art. The program was carried out whilst following the guidelines and instructions of the Health Ministry and taking all necessary precautions to maintain the health and safety of all those involved.

Furthermore, the renovations we have completed thus far include establishing the Salman Natour Public Library, which contains a host of books written in various languages. Everything from academic journals to children's books can be found on the shelves. This year, the Mossawa Center donated over 1,500 books to 30 Palestinian Arab libraries in Israel, including publications written by the Mossawa Center.



In addition, with our partners CEGAS, we offer college and university students affordable housing at the Carmel Center as well as vocational training.

Eidna Thaqafe (Holidays and Culture)



In its work to promote cultural activities and art in the Palestinian Arab community, the Mossawa Center, in cooperation with the Committee for Educational Guidance for Arab Students, hosted “Eidna Thaqafe” (Holidays and Culture) in the Carmel Center. To celebrate Eid al-Adha, we hosted a cultural and artistic festival, open to all members of the community, from all ages and backgrounds. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, only a few dozen participants were allowed to take part in person; however, the event was live-streamed virtually, allowing many more to participate safely from their homes and elsewhere.

The festival consisted of 3 main events: a children's show packed with music and fun activities with Lina Dawood, a stand-up comedy act with Ayman Nahhas, and a monologue with actor Afif Shlewit. In addition to those events, there was a bazaar for

handicrafts and ceramics and a book stand where people could take books they found interesting for free.

The Mossawa Center hosted a similar festival at the Carmel Center in December to celebrate Christmas.

Empowering Youth and Student Groups

The Mossawa Center strongly believes in the importance of empowering Palestinian Arab youth to bring about meaningful, long-lasting change to the community. It has four active groups: Haifa Youth Group, Jisr Az-Zarqa Youth Group, College Students in Advocacy Group, and College Students in Media Group. Hence, it organized countless workshops, events, and activities at the Carmel Center and elsewhere to foster a new generation that is politically and socially active.]

We hosted a workshop titled *Our Traits and Their Impact on Our Lives* that allowed participants to explore their identity and personality while being a part of a larger community. Additionally, we hosted two other workshops titled *Our Lives: Ups and Downs* and *Circles of Passion and Influence* that focused on empowering and developing participants' identities and passions.

To make our youth groups more politically conscious, we hosted a webinar about the October 2000 Demonstrations. This is a part of our work to cultivate future leaders and activists for the Palestinian Arab community. We hosted countless other workshops, meetings, and events that addressed ongoing developments affecting the Palestinian Arab community and its youth.

Advocacy Training Camp

Aspiring Palestinian Arab university students from across the country took part in the Mossawa Center's advocacy training program, which equipped them with the tools and knowledge to effectively advocate for the political, economic, social, cultural, and legal rights of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel.

The three-day program, held in cooperation with the Carmel Center, included various workshops and seminars, each focusing on a different field and aspect of advocacy. Students had the opportunity of learning and discussing countless issues relating to Palestinian Arab advocacy with legal experts, community organizers, local and international leaders, and Palestinian Arab Knesset members. By the end of the workshop, the participants not only gained important skills in advocacy and knowledge,

but also established a student advocacy network that addresses issues of concern for Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel.



Media and Public Relations Training Camp

Accompanying the advocacy camp was a “Media and Public Relations” course at the Carmel Center for students who wanted to develop their skills in media and journalism. Mossawa Center founder and General Director Jafar Farah spoke to the participants and explained how the media in Israel works and who stakeholders in it are. The workshop also involved guest lecturer a well-known journalist who works for one of the mainstream media channels. They introduced the students to investigative reporting and explained the skills needed for the job and what the important steps are to do such reporting.

The training was a great success among the participants, who responded very positively to it and looked forward to future workshops and courses to be offered at the Carmel Center. Most of the participants went on to do internships in media outlets.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Ambassadors Visit Jisr Az-Zarqa

The ambassadors of France and Germany visited the village of Jisr Az-Zarqa, an event organized by the Mossawa Center. The ambassadors, H.E. Eric Danon of France and H.E. Susanne Wasum-Rainer of Germany visited the council, a school, and the beach to witness the work on Mossawa Center's flagship development project. A project funded by the EU, the Mossawa Center has worked relentlessly to help uplift the village and its community. The ambassadors were concerned at the fact the Jisr Az-Zarqa, the poorest Palestinian Arab locality in Israel, is situated right next to Caesarea, one of the wealthiest localities in Israel.

Meetings with Ambassadors

In November, H.E. Mr. Erik Ullenhag, the Swedish Ambassador to Israel, expressed his desire to strengthen the relationship with the Palestinian Arab community, during his visit to the Mossawa Center in Haifa. The ambassador affirmed that his country is committed to international human rights covenants and that it is concerned with a peaceful solution between the two peoples.



Mossawa Center staff provided the ambassador and his delegation with a comprehensive overview of the legal, social, economic, and political status of Palestinian Arab citizens in Israel, and addressed issues such as land confiscation, home demolitions, and economic and social discrimination. It was agreed to hold periodic meetings during the coming year, which would include developing bilateral relations in the defense of human rights and scientific and cultural cooperation.

In October, the Mossawa Center visited international representatives in Tel Aviv. Mossawa Center founder and General Director Jafar Farah, along with the Coordinator of International Advocacy and Resource Development, Wasim Nasser, met with EU Ambassador, HE Mr. Emanuele Giaufret, to

discuss ongoing political developments, COVID-19, and issues facing the Arab community in Israel. They also took the opportunity to discuss the Mossawa Center's solidarity initiative between marginalized communities. Farah and Nasser also met with newly appointed Swedish Ambassador HE Mr. Erik Ullenhag as well as Canadian Deputy Head of Mission Dr. Martin Larose to introduce the Mossawa Center's work, as well as promote its solidarity initiative and raise awareness regarding issues facing marginalized communities in Israel.

In August, Swiss Deputy Ambassador Ana Lis Henin, accompanied by Political Attaché Edward Laurent, met with Mossawa Center founder Jafar Farah, International Advocacy and Resource Development Coordinator Wasim Nasser, and Nour Abu Ghoush of the International Department to talk about the challenges of the Palestinian Arab community. The Mossawa Center prepares papers and articles for international institutions and builds an international relationship network that specializes in the special status of the Palestinian Arab community in Israel. The Swiss representatives were given a detailed report of the Mossawa Center's work in the fields of legal and parliamentary advocacy, youth empowerment, solidarity, economic and social justice, and more. The meeting concluded with an agreement to organize future visits and meetings of the embassy in Palestinian Arab towns within Israel.

Meeting with US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

Mossawa Center founder and General Director Jafar Farah was invited to a roundtable discussion with a bi-partisan delegation of American Congress members, led by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and representatives from various human rights and media institutions.



Farah, representing Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel in attendance, highlighted the prominent challenges facing the community such as the high rate of poverty, the rise in violence, and the unrelenting incitement by Israeli politicians and leaders including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself.

Farah concluded by emphasizing the fact that Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel are game-changers in regional politics and that they must be empowered, not ignored or silenced, to bring about meaningful change.

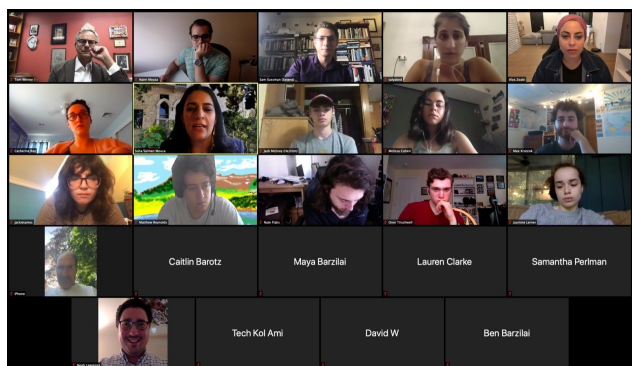
FRIENDS OF MOSSAWA AND THE MOSSAWA CENTER IN THE US

Friends of Mossawa has continued and expanded its work with various actors in the United States in its efforts to raise the voices of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel.

Cooperation with Progressive American Forces

The Mossawa Center's International Media Coordinator Naim Mousa, Parliamentary and Legal Advocacy Coordinator Alya Zoabi, and Executive Director Suha Salman Mousa were invited by Sam Sussman of Extend Programs to speak to Jewish-American college students about Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel, the reality they live in, and their prospects. The event was hosted by Kol Ami synagogue in White Plains.

In another virtual event hosted by Partners for Progressive Israel, Salman Mousa along with other Palestinian Arab leaders and activists and over a dozen American activists took part in a seminar entitled *The Palestinian Minority: Issues of Justice and Equality*, where she highlighted the challenges facing the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel in light of discriminatory legislation and policies by the Israeli government.



Salman Mousa also focused on the often ignored individual and collective achievements of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel. The achievements of Palestinian Arab medical teams and staff in the Israeli healthcare system during the COVID-19 crisis are one of the greatest examples of this community's potential.

In addition to discussing the Palestinian Arab community itself, Salman Mousa identified what the American public can do regarding the issue. She made it clear that the international community, especially the American public, should not rely solely on information obtained from the foreign and American media, and that it must search for the truth and hear the whole story.

Additionally, Salman Mousa met with a group of progressive activists in the New York area, where she discussed the challenges facing the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel, as well as what future steps must be taken to protect their rights.

In a group meeting organized by 92nd Street Y in December, Salman Mousa spoke of the current political landscape in Israel and the role of Palestinian Arab citizens in it. Moreover, she spoke about the Mossawa Center’s Solidarity project and the concept behind it, and how the Jewish-American community can be more involved and active in bringing change to Israel.

By communicating with our organization and participating in our international seminars and online events, the international community and members of the general public can gain exclusive access and knowledge to the situation on the ground in the region.

Meeting with Incoming Progressive Congress Members



Suha Salman Mousa, as part of Friends of Mossawa’s work in the US, to educate American Congress members and government officials about Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel, participated in a discussion with progressive Democratic Rep. Mondaire Jones of New York where she highlighted the struggles facing Palestinian Arab citizens of

Israel, as well as their role as game changers in Israeli politics who can bring meaningful and profound change to the region.

Raising Awareness

The Mossawa Center hosted a webinar to explore West Bank annexation - a prospect Netanyahu has promised to carry out - through the eyes and experiences of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel. Moderated by Diana Buttu, a lawyer and former legal advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team, panelists Jafar Farah, founder and General Director of the Mossawa Center, and Dr. Hanna Swaid, former Knesset Member of the Hadash party and Head of the Arab Center for Alternative Planning.

Farah and Dr. Swaid made it clear that Netanyahu’s annexation plan has one purpose: to bring about the establishment of a One-State solution. Moreover, both panelists made it clear that the international community must work to oppose annexation in a meaningful way to prevent it – not just verbally condemn it as it has done regarding the occupation for decades.

Friends of Mossawa also invited Joint List Knesset Member Aida Touma-Sliman to a roundtable discussion with key representatives with various church and NGO offices at the United Nations. The discussion, held at the Church Center for the United Nations, addressed how the Joint List's performance in the September elections reinvigorated and energized Palestinian Arab citizens, highlighting their importance to bringing political change. MK Touma-Sliman emphasized the need to remove PM Netanyahu from office to bring about the full realization of civil and human rights.

OUR PLANS FOR 2021

State budget advocacy and economic development - we will be working extensively with our partner NGOs, foundations, Knesset Members, and others to secure the necessary funds for the Palestinian Arab community in Israel from the 2021 State budget, as well as continue to follow up on economic development plans such as Government Resolutions 922 and future economic plans.

We will also be paying particular attention to alleviating poverty, industrial zones, employment, and the lack of healthcare infrastructure in Palestinian Arab society as it begins to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jisr Az-Zarqa - Our flagship development project, we will advocate to include the fishing village in Jisr Az-Zarqa in a larger economic development plan for the area, and will continue to follow up on our efforts with Hamama Jarban - the only fisherwoman in the village of Jisr Az-Zarqa - to prevent the demolition of her fishing shack by Israeli authorities through our litigation and legal advocacy efforts. Moreover, we will be looking into plans by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority to include Jisr Az-Zarqa in a tourism development plan given its access to the beachfront. We will continue to cooperate with the local council of Jisr Az-Zarqa to bring about development and investment into the village.

Legal advocacy - We will continue to vigorously oppose discriminatory legislation and policies carried out by the Israeli government against Palestinian Arab citizens. We will continue our fight against the Kaminitz and Nation-State laws, as well as any future actions by the Israeli government or politicians that threaten the rights of Palestinian Arab citizens. In addition, we will continue and expand our work against police brutality through legal advocacy and in unison with our solidarity work.

Solidarity - we will not only continue our initiative to build solidarity between the

Palestinian Arab community and other marginalized groups but will in fact expand our efforts to build new connections and forge new partnerships with other communities. Our project will focus not only on a local level but also on a national level by mobilizing marginalized communities in Israel in unison to bring about social and political change.

Women's empowerment - One of the most important aspects of our civil society programs, women empowerment, will see countless new projects and initiatives come to life this year. The focal point of our women's empowerment campaign is our "Mahali" Project, which aims to empower Palestinian Arab women to run for elections in their local councils in the upcoming local elections.

Youth - Our youth program continues to expand in membership and scope as we work to transform the Carmel Center into a social and cultural hub for the Palestinian Arab community. This year, we will be focusing on transforming our youth groups into more politically conscious ones given the upcoming elections and increasing neglect of the Palestinian Arab community by the Israeli government. We will invest in activating youth in advocacy, media, and community organizing.

Naqab - This year, in cooperation with the Siraj and Huqooqna non-profit organizations, we will be implementing a new project in the unrecognized villages in the Naqab (Negev) region in Israel. The project will focus on youth empowerment, promoting Bedouin culture, and raising the voices of Bedouin youth regarding their needs and struggles.

International advocacy - 2020 marked a remarkable year for our international advocacy work and we look to continue that momentum in 2021. In Israel, we will be meeting and working with more international bodies and actors including European embassies and ambassadors, as well as international foundations and organizations. Through Friends of Mossawa in the United States, we are going to expand our cooperation with our allies and supporters and will focus particularly on developing connections with and educating the incoming progressive American Congress members and the new Biden Administration.

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

None of our work this year could have been done without the incredible effort and diligence shown by our staff. When the moment came, each staff member stepped up and met the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, finding new and innovative ways to carry out our crucial work. We would also like to thank the support and commitment of the Mossawa Center's Board throughout the year.

Staff



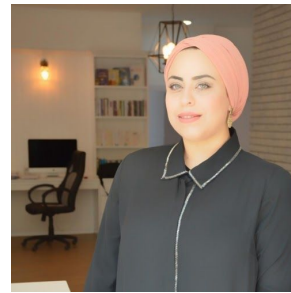
Jafar Farah, *Mossawa Center Founder and General Director*



Suha Salman Mousa, *Mossawa Center Executive Director*



Wasim Nasser, *International Advocacy and Resource Development*



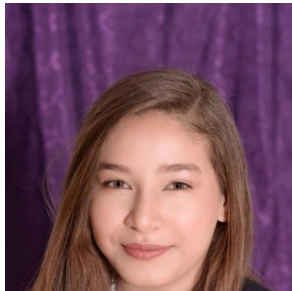
Alya Zoabi, *Parliamentary and Legal Advocacy Coordinator*



Chen Krasnitski, *Community Solidarity Coordinator*



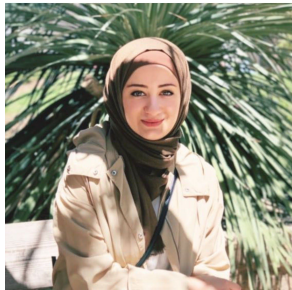
Tammer Awwad, *Civil Society Coordinator*



Aleen Nasra, *Office Manager Secretary*



Naim Mousa, *International Media Coordinator*



Nour Abu Gosh, *International Department*



Rana Jarban, *Legal Advisor*



Rani Abu Al-Qia'an, *Youth Program Coordinator*

Simon Gideon, *Accountant*

Board of Directors



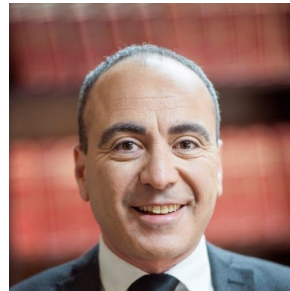
Albir Nahhas, Attorney



Kamel Barghouthi, Teachers union in Nazareth area



Ahmad Gazzawy, Lawyer and Social Activist



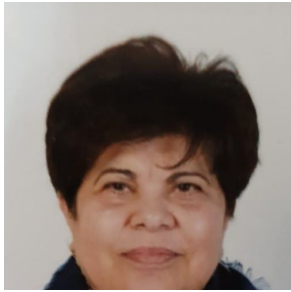
Ghassan Tanous, Advocate



Tawfik Housary, Accountant and Social Activist



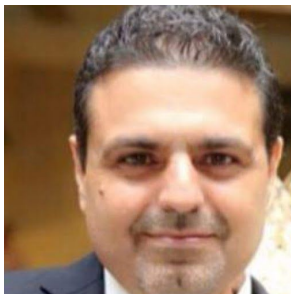
Maria Jammal, Lawyer and Social Activist



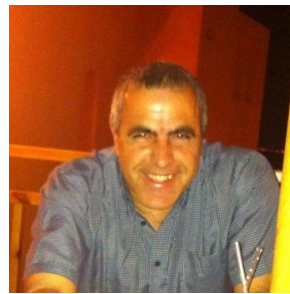
Hala Espanioly, *former lecturer at the Academic Arabic College in Haifa*



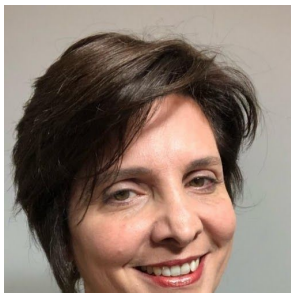
Hisham Abdu, *Professor of Computer Science at the Technion and former Haifa Municipality member*



Nafea Haj Yihya, *Dentist and Social Activist*



Mahmoud Igbariah, *Engineer and Social Activist*



Marian Abi Nader, *Lawyer*

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to our partners, without whom we could not do the critical work we continue to do.

We would also like to express our deep appreciation for all our supporters in the United States and Canada, as well as in the EU, who believe in us and our work.



European Union



ICCO Kerk in Actie



Brot für die Welt



Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung



Taawon



Zivik



Steuncomité Israëlische Vredes en Mensenrechtenorganisaties