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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More than 4,000 Palestinian Arab students from Israel study at Jordanian universities and contribute 243,240,000 NIS to Jordanian economy

HAIFA, ISRAEL — Local NGO CEGAS (Center for Educational Guidance of Arab Students) revealed before their November 30 conference that Palestinian Arab students from Israel annually contribute 40,000,000 dinars, about 243,240,000 Israeli shekels, to the Jordanian economy. CEGAS announced that this number includes tuition, room and board, fees for crossing the borders between Israel and Jordan, and other living and traveling expenses. CEGAS has indicated that this current situation demands the development of a plan that will assure the absorption of these graduates from the Jordanian university into the Israeli employment market. CEGAS also indicated that the government creates obstacles for these graduates when they return to Israel and seek employment.

CEGAS was established in 1991, with the mission to increase the number of Arab students in higher education. They focus their efforts on raising awareness of the importance of vocational and educational guidance, whilst also providing these services to Arab students nationally in Israel. As part of continuing these efforts, CEGAS will host its annual Conference on Higher Education at the Cinemateque in Nazareth, as part of the second annual Days of Mossawa Festival. The conference will begin at 9 a.m. on November 30, with presentations by Arab lecturers from universities and colleges in Israel, including Ben Gurion University, Technion Institute, Oranim College and Al-Qassemi College. Topics for discussion will include entrance requirements and preparations required for acceptance to a university, Arab students in universities in Israel, the importance of the English language in academic studies, and women in higher education.

During the presentations, CEGAS will also be hosting tens of higher education institutes in a "Higher Education Bazaar," where the public will be welcomed to discuss higher education possibilities with representatives of the education institutions. Both events will be located in building which houses Cinemateque El Sana.

CEGAS will be welcoming students from schools throughout Israel, and the public is welcome to attend the conference and bazaar.

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