



**The Mossawa Center:
The Advocacy Center for the Arab
Citizens of Israel**
5 Saint Luke's Street, P.O. Box 4471,
Haifa 31043, Israel
www.mossawacenter.org
Phone: +972-4-8555901
Fax: +972-4-8552772
mosawa@rannet.com

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kenda Stewart
Email: kenda.mossawa@gmail.com
Office: +972-4-855-5901

Constitution Based on Equality for All?: Mossawa Center launches Paper Outlining Demands, Analyses, and Position on the Development of an Israeli Constitution

HAIFA, ISRAEL, 29 NOVEMBER 2006 — The Mossawa Center has announced its publication of a position paper containing analyses, demands, and proposals for the debated Israeli constitution, entitled “Constitution Based on Equality for All?: On the Constitution and the Collective Rights of Arab Citizens in Israel.” In this paper, the Mossawa Center proposes specific measures that protect the collective rights of the Arab community. These include: equal and fair allocation of symbolic, political, and material public resources; recognition and implementation of Arabic as an official language; fair representation in decision-making bodies and equal employment opportunities; and educational and cultural self-management.

Dr. Yousef Jabareen, legal consultant for the Mossawa Center and lecturer at Tel Aviv and Haifa Universities, conducted research on behalf of the Mossawa Center, analyzing the current proposal by the Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee in the Knesset and the proposal's shortcomings vis-à-vis the Palestinian Arab community in Israel. This research was used to prepare the position paper, which is currently being published and will be available to the public for the first time at the Mossawa Center's Conference on the Legal Status of the Arab Community in Israel on December 1.

The conference will convene at the El-Ein Hotel in Nazareth will feature keynote speaker Supreme Court Justice Salim Jubran's presentation on “The High Court of Justice and the Protection of Human Rights.” Following this, panelists will discuss the development of the Israeli constitution and Arab citizens' status within it and discrimination in compensation suits for the Arab community. Panelists and participants include: Dr. Yousef Jabareen, law lecturer, researcher at the Minerva Center for Human Rights, and Mossawa Center legal consultant; Raef Zreik, lawyer and Harvard Law graduate; Prof. Mordochai Kremnitzer, Law Faculty, Hebrew University; Adv. Sonia Boulos, Association for Civil Rights in Israel; Adv. Shadi Shweri, Mossawa Center board member; Adv. Alber Nahhas, Mossawa Center board member; Adv. Mtanes Shaer, private law practice; Adv. Durgam Seif, director of Al-Karama Association for Human Rights; Adv. Hisham Sabaita, Human Rights Program in Tel Aviv; Adv. Naila Atiyeh, private law practice; Shawki Khatib, chairman of the National Committee for the Arab Local Authorities in Israel; and Jafar Farah, director of the Mossawa Center.

The Mossawa Center's publication of the constitution analysis paper will be launched at the conference and will be available in Hebrew. A short summary will be available in Arabic and English, with the complete paper to follow.

Attendance to the Legal Status Conference is by registration only. Please contact the Mossawa Center by 16:00 30/11/06 on 04 855 59 01/2 or by fax 04 85 52 772

#####

