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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mossawa Center and El Sana announce program for the second annual Nazareth International Film Festival

Days of Mossawa Festival and Nazareth International Film Festival create a forum for discussion of human rights and sociopolitical justice through conferences, debates and politically and socially conscious films in Nazareth

NAZARETH, 21.11.06 — The Nazareth International Film Festival, held alongside the Mossawa Center's Days of Mossawa Festival, has announced its program of films for this year's festival to be held November 25 through December 1. The films will be screened at El-Sana's Cinematheque in Nazareth, the only Arab-run facility of its kind in of Israel. The festival's themes of human rights, development, religion and social justice will create a unique cultural forum for both the local residents and international visitors to the city. This year's festival features over 25 exciting films and documentaries from countries such as Israel, Armenia, Iraq, Belgium and France. *Ahlaam*, filmed in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, is possibly the first feature film from the country post-Saddam Hussein. Many of the films, including *October's Cry*, *Arus Eljalil*, *Hole in the Wall* and *Encounter Point*, were directed and produced in Israel and deal in different ways with the life, conflict and peace in the region.

El-Sana Cinematheque and the Mossawa Center cooperatively host the International Film Festival and Days of Mossawa Festival annually to promote and enrich the cultural and artistic life of local Arab communities. The Mossawa Center's advocacy work both internationally and locally strives for political and cultural empowerment of minority and/or marginalized groups. The International Film Festival provides an exceptional opportunity to advocate human rights, development and social justice through artistic media.

The El-Sana Cinematheque hosts local and international film, theatre and music, as well as conferences, seminars and festivals on a variety of themes. For over five years, this forum has shown films and hosted cultural activities from 25 counties. Over 10,000 people have visited the cinematheque in 2004 alone. The running of the cinematheque is made possible by an invaluable network of unpaid young volunteers who are committed to its aims and ideas and share its sense of community service.

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