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The Advocacy Center for the Arab
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High Follow-up Committee for Arab citizens calls for a general strike on October 1

The High Follow-up Committee for Arab citizens calls for a general strike on October 1, 2009. The strike, which will take the form of a one-day stoppage as well as a march, is to protest the deterioration of conditions faced by Arab citizens and failure of the state to bring justice to the families of the 13 Arab victims that were killed by security forces during the events of October 2000.

The Committee calls on all Arab institutions, movements, organizations and businesses in Israel to participate and to act in solidarity and strike against the demolition of homes in the Triangle area and the Negev, the building of settlements in the Galilee and the Triangle area, racial and political incitement, discrimination in the allocation of resources and intimidation.

The Committee details the motivation behind the call for strike as follows:

- To protest the continuation and escalation of racism and incitement against Arabs.
- In defense of the Arab citizens' right to exist and live in dignity in their historic homeland.
- To protest against the denial of collective, civil and historical rights of the Arab minority.
- To protest against the state policy of confiscation and privatization of Arab property and the demolition of Arab houses.
- Against policies that lead to the impoverishment of Arab localities and contribute to the cycle of violence.
- For equality for Arab citizens and Arab local councils.

- Against systematic attempts to intimidate Arab youth from embracing their national identity.
- In solidarity and national unity with Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In addition to the work stoppage, at 14:00 there will be a march from the Mahmoud Darwish roundabout in the city of Arrabe, that will then head to the municipal market square.

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The Mossawa Center, the Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel, is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works to promote equality for the Arab Palestinian citizens of Israel. Established in 1997, the Mossawa Center strives to improve the social, economic and political status of the Arab citizens of Israel, while preserving their national and cultural rights as Palestinians.