



**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: Jafar Farah  
Email: [mosawa@rannet.com](mailto:mosawa@rannet.com)  
Office: +972-4-855-5901

### **Lieberman continues anti-Arab policy**

26 August 2009- Foreign Minister Avigador Lieberman expands his anti-Arab policy by putting forth yet another discriminatory proposal that would in effect prevent Arab citizens of Israel from pursuing a career in Israel's diplomatic service. In line with his "no citizenship without loyalty" campaign, Lieberman asserted yesterday that he plans to limit entry to the Foreign Ministry's cadet program to those who had either served in the IDF or had done national service. Making diplomatic service conditional on army or national service seriously disadvantages Israel's 1.5 million Arab citizens.

Lieberman asserted that in order to work for the Foreign Ministry and represent Israel abroad, it is critical that one "takes up all the obligations of citizenship". Lieberman adds by arguing that maintaining the status quo would discriminate against those that had served in the army by giving a three-year advantage to those who had not.

While up until now, the Foreign Ministry has had separate entry criteria for minorities, as a form of affirmative action and to encourage Arabs and non-Jews to apply, Lieberman plans to overturn this with his proposal. When it was pointed out to Lieberman that his proposal was illegal according to 1988 Equal Opportunity Law deemed it illegal to limit a job only to citizens that served in the army, he claimed that if that was the case then he will act to overturn the law through the Knesset.

Lieberman's proposal is not only illegal but also his willingness to attempt to overturn the law in order to promote a policy that would limit the representation of Israel abroad based on ethnicity and religion is highly anti-democratic.

The Mossawa Center finds this proposal discriminatory and urges the international community to apply pressure on the Israeli government to adhere to international norms, to promote the integration of minorities into governmental positions and for Israel's government to implement the recommendations of the Or Commission 2003. Lieberman continues to incite against Arab citizens, delegitimising their status as equal citizens which will further exacerbate tensions between the state of Israel and the Arab minority and complicate the regional conflict.

###

*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.*