



Friends of Mossawa

NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

OVER 500 ATTEND MOSSAWA CENTER'S END OF YEAR CONCERT

The Mossawa Center in Haifa hosted a concert to launch its social fund for Palestinian Arab Community in Israel - the Arab Fund for the Development of Local Social Initiatives, supported by local business men and women and matched by the European Union. Working with their partners at Al-Mashghal, Humanity Crew, Al-Tufula Center, CEGAS, and Intimaa Wa'ataa, the social fund will support initiatives by working groups and institutions to embolden community action, with a special emphasis on women and youth.

The performance itself consisted of instrumental tracks and songs, all written by the acclaimed Palestinian musician Habib Shahada Hana, and performed by artists from around the world. The Mossawa Center prides itself as an incubator of Arab civil society, and this was the latest example of such work.



MEETING WITH THE CHAIR OF THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

We met with S.E.M. Cheikh Niang to discuss the important work that NGOs and nonprofits do in order to promote Palestinian rights. We also highlighted the cooperation of the UN committee with Palestinian and Israeli activists on the ground in order to promote a just peace.



ATTENDING THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBIT AT THE UN 2019 PALESTINE SOLIDARITY DAY



Prior to the exhibit, we took part in a UN Committee on the rights of the Palestinian people. The exhibition at the UN showcased dozens of politicians, activists, and celebrities who have stood up and supported equality and sustainable peace between Israel and Palestine.

EU AMBASSADOR VISITS ONE OF THE MOST NEGLECTED PALESTINIAN TOWNS IN ISRAEL

The Mossawa Center and its partners hosted the EU Ambassador to Israel, HE Emanuele Giaufret, and a Mashreq Official from the European Foreign Ministry, Colin Sciculna, at Jisr az-Zarqa – the poorest locality in Israel - to witness the situation first-hand.

During the visit, the Mossawa Center exhibited its tireless advocacy work and interventions for the town, which have managed to secure key achievements for the local population, including allocations that helped kickstart a 6 million NIS renovation of the transportation system, and securing 300,000 NIS for infant health and 2 million NIS to local schools.

The Mossawa Center has partnered with Jisr az-Zarqa's local council and other organizations to tap into this vast potential to put the town on the global map, which was showcased during the EU ambassador's visit.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been indicted by the Attorney General on charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust in 3 separate corruption cases. This development could lead to a unity government that would exclude the Joint List.

Benny Gantz failed to form a minority government coalition with the Joint List. This means that Israel may be heading for a third round of elections, an opportunity that cannot be wasted by the Palestinian Arab minority to strengthen its political representation to 15 seats in the Knesset. Now is the time for Jewish progressive forces to step up to build genuine Jewish-Arab partnership.

In a so-called "emergency" rally, Benjamin Netanyahu incited against Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel, specifically attacking the Joint List, with some of its members reporting that they have received death threats. In a new nadir for a prime minister with a lavish history of incitement, he told the audience that a minority government will be "celebrate[d] in Tehran, Ramallah and Gaza, the way they celebrate after every terror attack. This would be a historic national attack on the State of Israel."

A SUCCESSFUL EVENT HIGHLIGHTING THE LIVED REALITY IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

As part of our continued efforts to bring the voices of Palestinian citizens of Israel into the mainstream, we co-hosted a public event at Temple Israel of New Rochelle. Our Executive Director, Suha Salman Mousa, opened the discussion by highlighting the need to initiate a conversation with the Jewish-American community regarding issues in Israel and Palestine. At the event, our panelists addressed the importance of Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel utilizing their political power to promote equality in the country, as well as recent political developments following the recent Israeli elections.



EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS BRIEFED BY MOSSAWA CENTER ABOUT ISRAELI ELECTION RESULTS AND THE PALESTINIAN MINORITY

As part of its continued work with embassies and foreign officials, the Mossawa Center has been the focal point for briefings regarding Israeli politics, minority rights, and social change in Israel for European diplomats and ambassadors. The British, French, and Dutch ambassadors visited the Mossawa Center and participated in round table discussions to get informed about the latest developments.



NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS VISIT MOSSAWA CENTER

Delegations have been visiting the Mossawa Center in Haifa from around the globe. Recently, Canadian and German delegations arrived in order to learn more about Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel, the impact of the latest political and legislative developments on Palestinian rights, and how the international community can help develop a meaningful peace process.



MOSSAWA CENTER AS A CULTURAL HUB

The Carmel Center is the home of the Mossawa Center. Regular cultural events are held in its outdoor area, allowing local artists to perform in a safe and pleasant environment. The Mossawa Center is currently raising funds for the renovation of the Carmel Center. Plans include the expansion and remodeling of the indoor and outdoor spaces to cater to larger events, and a large-scale modernization that will still allow it retain its warm, Palestinian feel. We believe culture is key to nurturing an equal, open-minded, and safe society.



CONTINUING AND EXPANDING WORK WITH PROMINENT CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Following the Mossawa Center's analysis of the state budget, it hosted several workshops and roundtable discussions with numerous leading civil society organizations and public figures, with the objective of assessing state budget allocation for, among other things, women and cultural programs in the Palestinian community in Israel.

As part of national efforts led by the Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Authorities, the Mossawa Center is holding a number of consultation meetings on various topics to prepare demands from the 2020 budget and towards a community economic development plan for the next five years.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

A major part of Mossawa Center's civil society organizing revolves around empowering the next generation of leaders. The Mossawa Center constantly works with youth groups in order to promote political, social, and cultural consciousness by discussing issues such as human and civil rights, domestic violence, leadership, and challenges facing the Palestinian community in Israel. Mossawa Center works vigorously with these groups in order to ensure a stable and prosperous future for Arab civil society.

