



Friends of Mossawa

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

The Coronavirus Outbreak in Israel: By the Numbers

Total
Cases
16,346

Total
Deaths
239

Total
Recovered
10,737

Active
Cases
5,370

Critical
Condition
83

Total Cases/
1 M People
1,889

Death
Rate
1.46%

Total
Tests
432,453

Total Tests/
1 M People
49,963

Testing
Capacity/ Day
15,000

Beds/
100k People
33.7

Ventilators/
100k People
40

What About Palestinian Arab Citizens of Israel?

Total
Cases
1,500+

Total
Deaths
5

Total
Tests
23,000

Poverty, Aid, and Food Security

As a result of the Mossawa Center's advocacy, the Haifa City Council distributed a 750 food packages to families in need, in addition to the 450 packages delivered by Mossawa. The Mossawa Center holds the government responsible for the poverty and food insecurity which have hit this community especially hard, and have demanded the expansion of the government's anti-poverty program and empowerment centers in Palestinian Arab localities.



Successful Webinar with Joint List MK Dr. Yousef Jabareen and Professor Fahed Hakim

The Mossawa Center hosted a [webinar](#), attended by over a 100 people, discussing the shift in the political reality in Israel following the elections and the situation on the ground in Nazareth hospitals. Mossawa Center Executive Director Suha Salman Mousa was joined by Dr. Yousef Jabareen of the Joint List, and Prof. Fahed Hakim, M.D., Head of Nazareth Hospital EMMS. [Click here to see the webinar.](#)

Establishing the Arab Emergency Center

The Mossawa center took part in the establishment of the Arab Emergency Center, initiated by the High Follow Up Committee for Arab citizens, the Arab Mayors Association, and other civil society organizations. The center has allowed for more effective coordination in mitigating the spread of the virus in the Palestinian Arab community and making information readily available to it.



الهيئة العربية للطوارئ
הוועד הערבי לחירום



Mossawa Center Appeal Prevents Political Nomination by Minister for Social Justice

In response to the Mossawa Center's petition, Social Justice Minister Gila Gamliel will not extend Liron Hens' appointment as Director of the Authority for Economic Development in the Arab Community, an appointment that did follow correct procedures. The Mossawa Center and heads of Arab local authorities protested the appointment as it is the highest-ranking role held by an Arab in public service.

Mossawa Center Advocacy Expands Information Availability for Palestinian Arab Community

The Israeli Homefront Command (similar to the National Guard in the US) has answered the Mossawa Center's demands for the National Emergency Portal to be available in Arabic. The Mossawa Center's advocacy has successfully been pushing back against government discrimination in providing information in Arabic.



Raising Awareness About Dangers of Reopening Schools and Ramadan Gatherings

The Mossawa Center hosted an important webinar to address the dangers of reopening schools and Ramadan gatherings in the midst of the coronavirus outbreak, with panelists Dr. Nader Batu, Cardiologist and catheter specialist and the developer of standardized holistic medicine method, and Kamel Barghouthi, Member of the Teachers' Union in the Nazareth District and Mossawa Center Board Member.

In Case You Missed It

In a move which blind-sided his own party and 1.2 million voters, Blue and White leader Benny Gantz has decided to abandon his party and join Netanyahu's alliance to form a unity government. The new unity government will most likely be as follows: Netanyahu will remain as Prime Minister until 2021, while Gantz will become the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister, replacing Netanyahu in 2021. The rest of the government positions will be divided up between members of Netanyahu's right-wing bloc and Gantz's Hosen Le-Israel party (one of the factions which comprised Blue and White).

Following advocacy by the Mossawa Center on behalf of Palestinian Arab citizens in the village of Jisr al-Zarqa (the most neglected locality in Israel), the Health Ministry announced that discrimination against workers from the village is forbidden. This was following numerous incidents in which workers from the village were forbidden from going to work simply because they came from Jisr al-Zarqa.

In Jaffa, the Israeli police was selectively enforcing lockdown regulations, by deliberately targeting Palestinian Arab citizens and using excessive force, including tasing and forcibly subduing them.

A Netanyahu-Gantz unity government coalition will consist of a minimum of 73 MKs, with MKs Amir Peretz, Itzik Shmuli, Orly Levi-Abuksis, Yoaz Hendel and Tzvika Hause of the Labor-Gesher-Meretz alliance also possibly joining. It is worth noting that this alliance was predicted to collapse by many people following the elections due to the fact that it has drifted further to right, leading many of its supporters to vote for the Joint List. Meanwhile, the opposition will consist of 42 MKs with Yesh Atid (one of the remaining factions of Blue and White) as its largest party and MK Yair Lapid (Yesh Atid's leader) as leader of the opposition.