

JEWISH REFUGEES FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

International Advocacy Campaign

I) Importance of Project

- When the refugee issue is raised within the context of the Middle East, people invariably refer to Palestinian refugees, not Jews displaced from Arab countries. It would be an injustice to recognize the rights of Palestinian refugees without recognizing equal rights for former Jewish refugees from Arab countries;
- As a matter of law and equity, no comprehensive Middle East peace can be reached without rights and redress for former Jewish refugees from Arab countries;
- On two recent occasions, on March 3, 2002 and on December 28, 2003, the Israeli Cabinet called for efforts *"to gather information, data, claims and documents... (and) record details of Jewish private and communal property in Arab countries and the denial of their rights"*.

II) Goals

- 1) *To conduct an international advocacy and public education campaign on the rights of former Jewish refugees from Arab countries; and*
- 2) *To document the mass violations of human rights of Jews who were forced to flee from Arab countries and catalogue the loss of their communal and individual assets.*

III) Coordinated International Effort

A campaign will be organized, for the month of November 2005, during which time Jewish communities in numerous countries will engage in a coordinated effort that will be launched and sustained by public education programs:

- Public proclamations by national governing bodies (e.g. Israeli Knesset, federal, state and/or municipal governments; central Jewish communal body; Rabbinic authorities; etc.) marking November 2005 as a special month of commemoration and collection of testimonials from former Jewish refugees from Arab countries;
- Public Representations: Approaches to politicians; government officials; professional associations; common cause with other minority groups displaced from Arab countries;
- Public Programs: Concurrent programming, in numerous countries, in synagogues, Jewish educational institutions; communal organizations, etc: and
- Media: Meetings with editorial writers and journalists; arranging for articles, op-ed pieces, ads to appear in the electronic, broadcast and print media.

Program plans, public education brochures; resource materials; etc. will be developed and disseminated, in several languages, for use by all participating Jewish communities.

IV) Auspices

The *International Advocacy Campaign* is an initiative of the *World Organization for Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC)*, in conjunction with *Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC)* and in partnership with the *Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, American Sephardi Federation, Anti-Defamation League, B'nai Brith International, Jewish Council for Public Affairs* and the *World Sephardic Congress*.