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PRESS RELEASE

Future of Moroccan Jewry to be Discussed by Scholars and Dignitaries at International Symposium

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(New York, NY) May 10, 2011 - The situation facing Moroccan Jewry today will highlight the closing plenary of an International Symposium entitled: '*2,000 Years of Jewish Life in Morocco: An Epic Journey*.' Organized by the *American Sephardi Federation*, the program is scheduled to take place in New York City on **Sunday, May 15 and Monday, May 16, 2011** at the *Center for Jewish History*, 15 West 16th Street.

His Excellency Aziz Mekouar, Moroccan Ambassador to the United States, will open the Symposium that will feature international scholars from Morocco, France, Canada, Israel and the U.S. who will address the legacy of Moroccan Jewry—past and present.

The second day of the symposium will feature a rare opportunity to obtain a 'first hand' briefing on Morocco's Jewish community, the largest Jewish population in the Arab world. The Honorable Serge Berdugo, Ambassador-At-Large of the Kingdom of Morocco and former President of the Jewish Community of Morocco, will be speaking along with Mr. Jacky Kadoch, President of the Jewish Community of Marrakech—the location of a recent terrorist attack. Among the topics to be addressed is the "Arab Spring," the nationalistic uprisings recently moving through the Arab world, and how this paradigm shift may affect Jewish life in Morocco today.

The symposium, open to the public, is being held under the High Patronage of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco and made possible through the generous support of the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation.

Founded in 1973, the *American Sephardi Federation* is the largest American organization dedicated to the promotion of the history and culture of the Sephardic Jewish population in the United States. The ASF is a founding partner of the *Center for Jewish History*.

For full program details, ticket information and the event syllabus, please visit: www.americansephardifederation.org/morocco-symposium.html.

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