



Mizrahi Remembrance Month

HONORING THE FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2015

JIMENA's Student and Young Adult Engagement Programs for Mizrahi Remembrance Month

San Francisco – On June 23, 2014 the Government of Israel adopted a law, which designates November 30th as an annual, national day of commemoration for the 850,000 Jewish refugees who were displaced from Arab countries and Iran in the 20th century. The law, which is the culmination of several years of hard work and dedication by an international team of Mizrahi Justice advocates, entails commemoration events and the inclusion of Mizrahi history into schools' curriculum.

JIMENA: Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa, a nonprofit that seeks universal recognition of the Mizrahi refugee experience and heritage, has planned a range of educational and cultural programs for college campuses and young adult groups in North America throughout the month of November. Raising awareness of Mizrahi refugee issues serves to exemplify the diversity of the Jewish people and of the Middle East as a homeland for peoples of various faiths, cultures and ethnicities.

Analucia Lopezvoredodo, JIMENA's Program Director and resident of the San Francisco, Valencia Moishe House notes that, "JIMENA developed the Moishe House Mizrahi Remembrance Month Micro-Grant Program in response to the shortage of Sephardic and Mizrahi themed events and resources. As the leading Jewish young adult organization in the country, it is important for JIMENA to raise awareness of Mizrahi Jewish heritage and history to Moishe House, and to offer up our extensive resources and support." Moishe House residents will be commemorating Mizrahi Remembrance Month with Mizrahi and Sephardic themed Shabbats, presentations and henna parties.

Educators and students alike rave about JIMENA's eye-opening educational and cultural campus programs claiming that it, *"is helping to add balance, nuance, and perspective to the often distorted discourse surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This is why JIMENA is an important neutralizer to BDS messaging. The history of 850,000 indigenous Jewish refugees from Arab countries must be wholeheartedly integrated into students' Jewish worldview and Israel advocacy."* (Natan Sharansky, Chairman of the Executive for The Jewish Agency for Israel). JIMENA is pleased to use November 30th as an opportunity to educate and engage college students in the history and culture of Mizrahi and Sephardic Jewish refugees and their descendants. Members of JIMENA's Speakers Bureau and staff will be leading presentations at campuses nationwide through the month of November.

JIMENA will be leading November 30th Mizrahi Commemoration programs at:

Campuses

*American University
Augsburg College
Capital University
Chico State University
East Carolina University
Kent State University
McNeese State University
Ohio State University
Pace University
Santa Monica College
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Berkeley
University of Georgia
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska
University of Nevada
University of North Carolina
University of San Francisco
University of Oregon*

Moishe Houses

*Baltimore, MD
Bethesda, MD
Boston, Cambridge, MA
Hoboken, NJ
San Francisco, CA
Seattle, WA
Tel Aviv, Israel
Washington D.C., Columbia Heights*

In Partnership with the following groups:



Hillel



JIMENA: Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa

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