



# NEWSLETTER

November 2016

## Legal Memo

### The Right to Physical Integrity

MUSAWA sent on 20/11/2016 a [legal memo](#) to Gaza's Public Prosecutor, Dr. Ismaeel Jaber, demanding that the necessary legal action be taken regarding a complaint about assaulting a detainee's right to physical integrity in Al-Shuja'iyya prison, where he was beaten and tortured by members of the police in the period of his detention.

the members' suggestions to improve their groups and ensure their sustainability and effectiveness; and finding solutions for the obstacles which prevent the members from fulfilling their duties.

## First Conference for Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA)



MUSAWA held the first conference for the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through video conference. 94 members participated in the conference, including 33 women and 61 men. The most important topics on the conference's agenda included: participatory discussion on MUSAWA's action plan 2017 with the members both in the West Bank and Gaza; examination of

## Discussing Future Plans with Netherlands Representative Office



Members of MUSAWA's Board of Directors and General Assembly, its Legal and Technical Adviser, and a number of its executive staff held a meeting on 22/11/2016 with two representatives of the Netherlands Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority to examine the results of MUSAWA's performance Evaluation Report 2016, and look into possible means of joint cooperation in the future.

## MUSAWA Conducts Meeting for Coordinators of Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network



In cooperation with the PHRDs Network, and in the presence of the Network's coordinators and members, MUSAWA conducted a periodic meeting for the coordinators of the northern and southern governorates. The meeting was held at MUSAWA's offices in the West Bank on 07/11/2016 and the Gaza Strip on 01/11/2016. It was attended by a total of 20 members, 10 of whom were women. More details can be found [here](#).

## Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network: Monthly Meetings in West Bank and Gaza Strip

Throughout November, eight meetings in eight different areas (Ramallah, Jerusalem and Jericho; Salfet and Nablus; Tulqarm and Qalqilya; Jenin and Tubas; Bethlehem and Hebron; Gaza and North Gaza; Gaza's Middle Governorate; Khan Yunis and Rafah) were carried-out by MUSAWA, in cooperation with the Palestinian Human Right Defenders Network. The meetings were attended by a total of 86 members (47 women and 39 men). For more details, click [here](#).

### MUSAWA's Interventions

In November, MUSAWA received five legal complaints. The **first** complaint addressed dismissal from employment. The **second** complaint revolved around forced retirement against an employee at the Ministry of Economy. The **third** complaint was about subjecting a detainee to torture and deprivation of treatment. According to the **fourth** complaint, the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs unlawfully deprived the complainant of his salary. The **fifth** complaint addressed procrastination of duties by a magistrate court's Registrar.

MUSAWA offered legal advice for the first two complainants; the third complaint was addressed through a memo sent to Gaza's Public Prosecutor; MUSAWA is in the process of sending a memo regarding the fourth complaint; and the fifth complaint is still being pursued.



## Radio Interview

### MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser

On 07/11/2016, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated in a [radio interview](#) on Radio Mawwal to discuss the decision to prevent the resigned Head of the High Judicial Council from entering courts, and the declaratory decision no. 1/2016 issued by the Supreme Constitutional Court (addressed in [special issue no. 27](#) of Justice and Law magazine).

### Members of the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network

On 21/11/2016, two members of the PHRDs Network, lawyer Mustafa Al-Dous and Ms. Iman Fayad, took part in a [radio episode](#) of the show "Legal Flashes", aired on Gaza FM. The members introduced the Network, its role, activities, challenges and obstacles. This comes as part of the media campaign to promote for the Network.

### Meeting with MUSAWA's General Assembly

On 09/11/2016, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, met with three members of MUSAWA's General Assembly in its Gaza Office. The meeting discussed the latest developments in MUSAWA's internal as well as external performance, with reference to the External Evaluation Report 2016.

### Meeting with MUSAWA's Monitoring Networks

MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, convened with active members of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups and the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network in MUSAWA's Gaza Office. The meeting, held on 10/11/2016, addressed the members' role in promoting rule of law and protecting the rights of citizens, particularly those related to the right to equality before the law, proper administration of justice, fair trial guarantees and the rights of human rights defenders.



## Other Activities

- MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated in the second meeting held by the national team for the unification of the judiciary in both parts of the county. The meeting was conducted in Birzeit University's Institute of Law on 01/11/2016, and it discussed the CSOs' visions about the philosophy, procedure and requirements of such unification.
- MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, took part in a meeting with CSO representatives, held on 08/11/2016 in Gaza's Institute for Development Studies. The meeting aimed at incorporating the principles of the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights into the Palestinian legislation, discussing the CSOs' oversight role on adhering to these principles, and how these aspects' relation to the components of a democratic regime.
- During his visit to Gaza on 10/11/2016, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, met with members of the national team for the unification of the judiciary, including legal and academic persons and representatives of CSOs in the West Bank and Gaza. Mr. Barghouthi presented a vision on the unification of the judiciary and Public Prosecution, in terms of procedure and content. The attendees expressed their support for this vision, which was put [in writing](#) and then disseminated to all members so that it would be discussed and approved in the meeting to be held in January.
- As a member of the national team for the unification of the judiciary, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, convened on 10/11/2016 with Gaza's High Judicial Council, Abdul Ra'ouf Al-Halabi. In their meeting, they spoke about possible mechanisms and procedures for unifying the justice system, the judiciary and Public Prosecution in particular. In addition, Mr. Barhouthi presented his perspective regarding the matter.
- On 09/11/2016, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, met with the Vice-Chairman of the Bar, lawyer Safi AL-Dahdouh, at the headquarters of the Bar in Gaza. During their meeting, they discussed the status of the justice system and judiciary. Also, they addressed the decision to seize the Bar's funds, and the proper ways for Gaza's Bar Council to handle the resulting conflicting. Confirming his role in defending the interests of lawyers and their Bar, Mr. Barghouthi presented his point of view concerning the matter.
- On 10/11/2016, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, visited Khan Yunis where he met lawyer Majdi Abu-Dakkah and social activist Ameenah Hilles to get an understanding of what is expected of MUSAWA from the perspective of the city's lawyers and social activists.



- MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, met on 08/11/2016 with a number of young disabled individuals in MUSAWA's Gaza Office. One of the most important issues discussed was the possible ways of joint cooperation in order to protect the rights of people with special needs at the legislative and executive levels. The main purpose is to include people with disabilities in the community, strengthen the culture of treating members of the disabled population as our equals, and identify MUSAWA's role in the issue in line with its mission and strategic plan.



MUSAWA's Partners  
2016



The Netherlands  
Representative Office to  
the Palestinian Authority



European Union



United Nations  
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