



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018

MUSAWA Conducts a Discussion Session on its latest publications: Justice and Law & Eye on Justice

On October 10, 2018, MUSAWA held a discussion session to discuss MUSAWA's latest periodic publications, "Eye on Justice" and "Justice and Law." The session was held in MUSAWA's offices in the West Bank and Gaza via video conference, and it was streamed live on MUSAWA's page on Facebook. The session was attended by 41 participants, including 12 women, of lawyers, legal specialists and MUSAWA's audience and readers of its publications in Gaza and Ramallah.



After initiating the session and welcoming the distinguished audience, the Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Angham Mansour gave a simple presentation of the publications and talked about the most prominent contents of MUSAWA's two latest publications. Afterward, the floor was open for the audience's discussion on the publications in general, and their contents in particular, where MUSAWA's Director General, Adv. Ibrahim al-Barghouthi responded to all raised questions. Proceeding from MUSAWA's interest in taking the opinions of its audience before taking any action regarding the publications, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Ruba Bakeer, posed a surveying question, previously posted on MUSAWA's Facebook page, on updating the policy of publication where the publications are made available only on MUSAWA's website, and paper printing is being stopped. In the end, the Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Angham Mansour presented the main suggestions made during the session, which will be taken into consideration when preparing future publications.

MUSAWA Endorses Participation in Community Activities to Stop the Implementation of the Decree-Law on Social Security

MUSAWA issued a position paper in which the center declared its supporting position of the Community Activities to Stop the Implementation of the Decree-Law on Social Security, and in which the center stated the reasons why to stand against the implementation of this decree law. [More info here.](#)



MUSAWA's team of employees also participated in the mass event on Monday October 15, 2018, where they held different banners including Stopping the Implementation of the Decree-Law on Social Security is a step towards a fair Social Security, Social Security Fund: who's the guarantor, and put the Decree-Law on Social Security forward for a community dialogue again.

MUSAWA Conducts Training on SWOT Analysis and Lobbying & Advocacy Campaigns for its Staff with the Participation of Members of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly

On Wednesday and Thursday, 24 and 25 October 2018, MUSAWA held the annual meeting for its staff, with the participation of members of MUSAWA's board of directors and the general authority. The meeting included training the staff on SWOT Analysis, Lobbying & Advocacy Campaigns, the professional code of conduct, and the consistency of MUSAWA's strategic & executive plans with them. The meeting was conducted in Ramallah and Gaza via video conference and Skype.



MUSAWA Conducts Three Meetings for the Lawyers for the Rule of Law (Friends of MUSAWA) Group in Hebron & Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Gaza

Proceeding from its motif to build the capacities of trainee and newly licensed lawyers, as a step to improve the legal environment, and to reform the judicial system in Palestine, MUSAWA conducted three meetings for The Lawyers for the Rule of Law (Friends of MUSAWA) Groups in Hebron & Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Gaza, which were the first meetings of a series of periodic meetings that will be held in the future. The meetings concentrated on the role of the group, and the major part it plays in achieving MUSAWA's vision as an independent civil monitoring body, the group discussed some of the trending legal topics in the Palestinian context.



MUSAWA an Observer Member on the Trainee Lawyers Written Exam

As a response for the invitation of the Palestinian Bar Association, a team nominated by MUSAWA has participated as an observer member on the written exam of the trainee lawyers, which was held on 28/10/2018 at Birzeit university's halls. MUSAWA's team recorded several remarks that were included in a [memo](#) sent to the Bar association.

MUSAWA continues its training program on the Monitoring and Documentation of Violations

MUSAWA- organized a training program on the Monitoring and Documentation of Violations for law and media student at Al-Azhar University in the Gaza strip. The units of Legal Awareness and Legal Monitoring at MUSAWA conducted the training over two days, for four consecutive hours per day, with the participation of 21 students, eight of which are women. The training included providing worksheets and practical applications of real complaints, and connecting them to the surrounding reality of the students, as well as forming Monitoring and Documentation of Violations' work groups. [Find more here.](#)



It is worth mentioning that this program is a compliment for a training program initiated by MUSAWA, in cooperation with the community-based organizations and the universities of the Gaza Strip, as a related training workshop was held during September at Al-Israa University.

MUSAWA Participates in the World Day against the Death Penalty's Activities

Proceeding from its belief in the right to life, and that the death penalty is not effective as a deterrent punishment, and the fact that this penalty cannot be withdrawn in the case of presenting new proofs, MUSAWA's team participated in the World Day against the Death Penalty's Activities, including the march that "Shams" Center has invited to. Previously, MUSAWA has also published a [video](#) on the ground of refusing the death penalty, and the desired objective of its abolition, at the time of issuing new death penalties in Gaza.

MUSAWA reiterates its firm opposition to this penalty, which contradicts with the new criminal justice policy, especially in the absence of the guarantees of the fair trial, and the citizen's loss of trust in the judicial system, including the civil & martial judiciary. MUSAWA also calls the decision makers to take the legislative and administrative actions to ensure abolishing the death penalty.



MUSAWA Conducts a Meeting for the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders (PHRDs) Network

As a Founding Member and a member of the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders (PHRDs) Network, MUSAWA conducted a meeting for the network's coordinating committees' representatives and members who work in the southern governorates, on 30/October/2018 at MUSAWA's headquarter in Gaza. The meeting discussed the network's work plan of 2019 and the requirements to develop its performance as an umbrella for defending the rights of the human rights defenders and their efforts to provide the legislative basis for the needed legal tool to achieve its vision and leverage its role. During the meeting, the participants studied the network's vision, mission, and activities, and the mechanisms to circulate this vision, and most importantly, to differentiate between the network's vision and the human rights defending in general, as the role of the network is monitoring, documenting, following up and dealing with any violation that might face human rights defenders during doing their job or because of it.



MUSAWA's Mobile Legal Clinics

Strengthening its monitoring role of the performance of the justice sector and raising the awareness of marginalized groups about their rights, as well as building the capacities of young lawyers and law students, MUSAWA along with its volunteers' network, conducted raising awareness workshops and trainings in (Beit Sahour, Aqabet Jaber, Aqabet Jaber camp, Ne'lin) in the West Bank and in (Khan camp, Younes, AlZaitoon, Beit Lahya, AlShate' camp, and Beit Hanoun) in the Gaza Strip. The educational workshops discussed performing hysterectomy on women with mental disabilities, children's rights, women's right to education, the procedures of land registration, drugs and how to control them, the right to political participation in the international agreements and domestic legislation, right to freedom of opinion and expression, the fair trial guarantees for juvenile offenders, the needs of persons with disabilities and their legal rights, the citizen's rights at the time of the arrest, Childhood protection in Palestine. The workshops were attended by 235 participants, 151 among them are females. On the margin of the workshops, 11 legal advice was offered in the Gaza Strip.





Legal Memos and Position Papers

2/10/2018 – [Position paper](#) issued by The Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process: The decree-law draft on amending the Associations Act undermines the work of civil society organizations and threatens their sustainability.

4/10/2018 – [Position paper](#) “MUSAWA Demands Cancellation of the Procedures for the Hiring of Prosecutors' Assistants”.

4/10/2018 – [Memo](#) to the minister of high education “The Rejection of a Master's Degree Equivalence Although It Meets the Conditions required”.

7/10/2018 – [Memo](#) to the president “Declaring the Recommendations of the National Committee for Developing the Justice System and Reviewing the Judicial Legislation System”.

9/10/2018 – [Position Paper](#) “MUSAWA Endorses Participation in Community Activities to Stop the Implementation of the Decree-Law on Social Security”.

15/10/2018 – [Memo](#) to the attorney general and the head of the complaints department at the ministry of education and higher education, and the child protection mentor at the ministry of social affairs “Denial of the Right to Education Contradicts the Obligations to Respect the Human Dignity of Children”.

15/10/2018 – [Position Paper](#) “The Publication of Juvenile's Pictures and Information is a Coarse Violation of Human Dignity and an Offence Punishable by Law”.

16/10/2018 – [Memo](#) to the attorney general, and the Director of the Ombudsman and human rights' Office at the Palestinian Police “Violating the Sanctity of the Home and a Humiliating Arrest”.

21/10/2018 – [Memo](#) to the head and members of the High Judicial Council “the Resolution of Land Issues”.

28/10/2018 – [Position Paper](#) “Civil Society Organizations Demands Not To Enforce the Landlord and Tenant's Decree-Law”.

MUSAWA's Interventions Yield Results Again

MUSAWA produced a [video](#) for the success story of Safaa AlHarazin's who suffered from kidney failure and was transferred to Egypt as a result for MUSAWA's intervention, in order to perform a kidney transplant procedure donated by her husband, after refusing the transferring request previously by the competent bodies in the Gaza Strip, but unfortunately, the medical examinations carried out in Egypt proved a tissue-incompatibility.

MUSAWA' Interventions

During October, MUSAWA received nine complaints on 1) Violating the Sanctity of the Home and an Arrest in contrary to the law; 2) Denial of the Right to Education; 3) Exploitation of the use of power by the Preventive Security Service; 4) long-term detention without legal justification; 5) attacking lawyers ; 6) The procedures of implementing a judicial ruling; 7) travel ban without a judicial ruling; 8) Refraining from implementing a judicial ruling; 9) The conditions of minors' travel with one of their parents .

MUSAWA sent two legal memos regarding the first and the second complaints; and provided four legal advice for the third and the fourth, the fifth, and the sixth complaints, as for the sixth complaint; as for the seventh and the eighth complaints, they were withdrawn by the complainant, while the ninth one is in progress. MUSAWA has received a response from the attorney general on its memo "[Refraining from Executing Judicial Rulings Continues](#)" on 2/10/2018. MUSAWA has also sent a reminder for the attorney general enquire about its meeting with him on 23/9/2018, whereas 'MUSAWA's office in Gaza has received a response from the attorney general on the memo "[A new Case Where Personal Relations are a Barrier to Accepting Complaints from Citizens at Police Stations](#)" on 11/10/2018.

Field Visits to the Pillars of Justice

In cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (Friends of MUSAWA), MUSAWA, represented by Adv. Rula Musa, carried-out six field visits to the pillars of justice. The visits included the Gaza's district and magistrate courts, Khanyounes and Rafah district court, and the Magistrate Court of the north of Gaza. These visits come as part of MUSAWA's role in monitoring law-violations and promoting the rule of law in Palestine. On the margin of those visits, three violations were recorded.



Radio & TV Interviews

2/10/2018 – [Radio Interview](#) about reforming the judiciary. (Adv. Ibrahim al- Barghouthi, MUSAWA's Director General, Nissaa FM).

4/10/2018 – [Radio Interview](#) about the appointments of the assistant prosecutors. (Adv. Ibrahim al- Barghouthi, MUSAWA's Director General, 24 FM).

7/10/2018 – [Press Interview](#) about the appointments of the assistant prosecutors. (Adv. Ibrahim al- Barghouthi, MUSAWA's Director General, Al-Hadath Newspaper).

9/10/2018 – [Radio Interview](#) about the appointments of the assistant prosecutors. (Adv. Ibrahim al- Barghouthi, MUSAWA's Director General, Mawwal FM).

10/10/2018 – [TV Interview](#) about referring the judge, Abdullah Ghuzlan, to a disciplinary council. (Adv. Ibrahim al- Barghouthi, MUSAWA's Director General, Watan news agency).

12/10/2018 – [Press Interview](#) about the appointments of the assistant prosecutors. (Adv. Ibrahim al- Barghouthi, MUSAWA's Director General, Nawa Newspaper).

14/10/2018 – [Radio Interview](#) about Decree-Law on Social Security. (Adv. Ibrahim al- Barghouthi, MUSAWA's Director General, Raya FM).

22/10/2018 – [Radio Interview](#) about MUSAWA's point of view of the Decree-Law on Social Security. (Adv. Rula Musa, legal monitoring officer at MUSAWA, Al-Ra'ey Al-Phalastini FM).

Miscellaneous Activities

Attending the “The threshold from occupation to annexation” conference, organized Al-Haq, PCHR, Birzeit University's Institute of Law, and FIDH, on 3/10/2018, MUSAWA was represented by the legal monitoring officer, Adv. Angham Mansour.

Participating in a workshop organized by Al-Haq Organization, on the trying of civilians by military tribunals, on 8/10/2018, MUSAWA was represented by the Director General, Adv. Ibrahim al- Barghouthi.



Participating in a part of the training program on the economic, social, and cultural rights' Advocacy, organized by PNGO, MUSAWA was represented by the legal monitoring officer, Adv. Angham Mansour.

Participating in a technical workshop for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to discuss the role of CSOs in supporting the reconciliation process in light of the proposed recommendations of transitional justice research (Transitional justice in Palestine between necessities and interests) that has been developed with the support of SAWASYA Programme. The workshop took place on 18/10/2018, and MUSAWA was represented by the executive director, Ahlam Tarayra, and the fundraising officer, Diab Zayed.

Attending the Meeting of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process with the EU Civil Society working group that also includes Switzerland and Norway (EU + 2) on the proposed draft law of 2018 to amend the law of charitable societies and NGOs for the year 2000 and its amendments. The meeting was held at Al Haq headquarter in Ramallah, on 18/10/2018, and it culminated in the issuing of a [position paper](#), which MUSAWA was one of the signatories on. MUSAWA was represented by the Executive Director, Ahlam Tarayra, and the Director-General, Adv. Ibrahim al- Barghouthy.

Attending the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process's meeting on the second draft of the Landlord and Tenant's Decree-Law, which culminated in the issuing of a [position paper](#), which MUSAWA was one of the signatories on. The meeting was held on 24/10/2018 at Al-Haq, and the Director-General, Adv. Ibrahim al- Barghouthy, represented MUSAWA.

MUSAWA's
Partners
2018



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority