



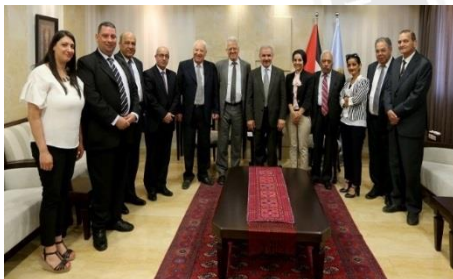
NEWSLETTER

June 2019

MUSAWA Continues to Call Duty Bearers for Assuming Responsibility for Reforming the Justice System in Accordance with MUSAWA's Vision

During its meeting with Mr. Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Ishtayya on 2/6/2019, MUSAWA's delegation declared that the crises of the Justice System is a structural one that is not related to law itself, and affirmed that any amendments on the Judicial Authority's Act shall ensure resolving this crisis by reforming the justice system according to professional assessment methods chosen by community participation to ensure a serious and major reform, apart from any domination exercised by the executive authority.

In the same context, MUSAWA's delegation handed Dr. Ishtayya a copy of its [Initiative](#) for the Unification, Reform, and Improvement of the Justice System, which was launched earlier last year, and reminded him of a [memo](#) published by the center in late 2017, which was sent back then to the officials' of the justice system in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In his capacity as a prime minister, the delegation urged him to resolve the Joint Security Committee once and for all and to endorse the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration, which was already discussed with the Minister of Justice during earlier meetings.



MUSAWA's meeting with the Prime Minister received wide media coverage, as it was aired on both Palestine channel and Maan News Agency's channel, and was reported by the official websites of the government and the prime ministry, in addition to other national newspapers. It is worth mentioning that on 9/5/2019, MUSAWA met the Minister of Justice, Dr. Mohammad Shalaldeh, to discuss the status of the Justice System, and MUSAWA's vision to overcome its crises, in addition

to discussing the need to adopt a declaration that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian human rights defenders, and the means for cooperation between the two bodies in promotion of the principles of separation between powers, the rule of law, and human rights, in adherence to the international covenants signed by Palestine. During the previous period, MUSAWA has met the Attorney General, Adv. Akram Al-Khatib, to discuss the means for cooperation between the two bodies on a professional and independent basis that preserves MUSAWA's right to monitor the justice system and thus contribute to developing and reforming it.

MUSAWA Publishes The 24th Issue of "Eye on Justice Gazette"

During June, MUSAWA- The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession has issued the 24th edition of "Eye On Justice Gazette", a gazette that is published 2-3 times a year with the purpose of working towards greater transparency in the justice system by monitoring the day-to-day work of justice sector workers. To read it, please follow this [link](#).





Position Papers & Legal Memos

12/6/2019 – [Position paper](#) entitled “MUSAWA Calls the Administration of Hebron University to Cancel its Decision on Expelling Seven of its Students”.

12/6/2019 – Received a response from the Military Judiciary Commission regarding our [memo](#) on “The Military Prosecution Derogates from the Provisions of the Law”.

17/6/2019 – [Position paper](#) entitled “MUSAWA's Statement on the Announcement of a Presidential Decree Abolishing Decree-Law on High Criminal Court”.

20/6/2019 - [Position Paper](#) entitled “Prejudicing the Property Right Is a Constitutional Mistake That Paves Way for Rampant Insecurity”.

23/6/2019 – [Memo](#) sent to the Attorney General entitled “Refraining from Executing a Judicial Ruling”.

23/6/2019 – [Memo](#) sent to the head of the Judicial Inspection in Gaza entitled “Court Appointed lawyers" Is One Of the Fair Trial Guarantees”.

27/6/2019 – [Memo](#) sent to the head of the Judicial Inspection in Gaza entitled “Violating the Rules of Jurisdictional Competences Affects the Fair Trial Guarantees”.

27/6/2019 – [Memo](#) sent to the head of the Judicial Inspection in Gaza entitled “Appearing before Courts without Case Files Causes Undue Delay In The litigation Procedures and Affects Human Rights & Fair Trial Guarantees”.

30/6/2019 – Reminder memo to indicate the actions taken concerning our [memo](#) sent to the attorney general entitled ‘Impunity Affects the Citizens' Right to Access to Justice’.

30/6/2019 – Reminder memo to indicate the actions taken concerning our [memo](#) sent to the Head of the Supreme Sharia Court, the Attorney General, the Secretary-General of the Legislative Council, the President of the Sharia Bar Association/ Gaza entitled “The Recurrence of Unlawful Detentions, Introducing Penalties in Contradiction with the Law, the Arbitrary Exercise of Power, and Separating Jurisdictions in a Manner that Prevents Legitimacy Monitoring & Human Rights’ Protection”.

MUSAWA's Interventions

During June, MUSAWA received nine complaints on 1) The indictment of a lawyer and Impeding the investigation procedures before the north police center; 2) The financial fees imposed on filing a complaint with the Palestinian Bar Association; 3) The slow pace of registering the license of Peace Loving Association at the Ministry of the interior in Ramallah; 4) The failure of the main prosecution witness to appear at 2 hearings; 5) Conducting election in contradiction with the law of the medical imaging union; 6) The theft charge; 7) Two complaints on refraining from implementing a judicial ruling; 9) A police officer attacks citizens. MUSAWA has provided four legal consultations, sent a memo to the competent bodies, while one of the complaints was dropped, another one was considered none of MUSAWA's jurisdiction, and two memos are still being followed up.

Field Visits to the pillars of Justice

In cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), MUSAWA carried-out a series of field visits to the pillars of justice in the Gaza Strip, including the justice palace compound, the magistrate's court and the Court of First Instance in Khanyounes, the court of military judiciary, the Juvenile Court, the Criminal Court and the Sharia courts in Gaza. During those visits, 3 violations were documented, whereas 4 legal consultations were provided, noting that these visits come as part of MUSAWA's work as a watchdog organization that monitors law-violations and promotes the rule of law.

MUSAWA's Mobile Legal Clinic

Strengthening its oversight role on the performance of the justice sector and raising the awareness of marginalized groups about their rights and the available mechanisms to attain them, as well as building the capacities of young lawyers and law students, MUSAWA, along with its volunteering groups and partner CBOs conducted 2 workshops in Gaza Strip (Hayy Al-Daraj, and Beit Lahya). The workshops addressed the following topics: children's rights according to the Palestinian constitution and international covenants, and the phenomenon of child labor in Palestine. A total of 69 participants attended the workshops, including 25 ladies. On the margins of those workshops, several legal consultations were provided for the participants.



MUSAWA and Al-Israa University Singed a Protocol to Establish a Legal Clinic in the University



On Monday 17/6/2019, MUSAWA- The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession and Al-Israa University have signed a protocol to establish a legal clinic at the University. In the signing meeting, MUSAWA was represented by Adv. Islah Hasaneyyeh, the BOD's member and Adv. Momen Hattab, the Legal Awareness & Training Office, while Al-Israa University was represented by Dr. Adnan Al-Hajjar, the President of the University, Dr. Alaa Matar, the dean of the Law Faculty, and Dr. Tareq Al-Dirawi, the faculty acting dean. The protocol was in

implementation of an understanding memorandum signed between the two parties a while ago, aiming at updating the legal data and applications provided for the law student, and connecting them to the practical aspects of the legal life. Under the Convention, an office inside the university shall be allocated for the legal clinic activities, such as receiving complaints, monitoring and documenting violations against the law and human rights, in addition to implementing legal awareness workshops for the students, and connecting them with training programs and moot courts that reflect the practical needs, in addition to organizing a team for the mobile legal clinic to monitor the violations committed in the marginalized areas and addressing them. This protocol also enhances the principle of partnership and participation for the sake of sharpening the students' skills to fit their future role in the legal life and to establish the principle of the rule of law according to the human rights- based approach, noting that a similar protocol was also signed with Gaza University previously.

MUSAWA Hosts a Workshop Implemented by PCARD

On 22/6/2019, MUSAWA hosted a workshop on the rights of the Palestinian women, which was implemented by the Palestinian Crescent for Relief and Development in association with Palestine's Center for Studies and Research. The workshop material included topics on women's rights in Palestine as provided by laws and the constitution, and a comparison between the positive law and the personal law, those topics were presented by Adv. Basel Al-Ajez, with the attendance of 21 students and graduates, including 8 ladies. On the margins of the workshop, a discussion was opened among the participants and their inquiries about the topics were answered.



MUSAWA Organizes An Internal Training on The Qualitative Methods of Research

On 27/6/2019, the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Dareen Lafi, implemented an internal training for MUSAWA's crew, on the qualitative methods of research, which include two approaches; personal interviews and focus groups. During the meeting, Lafi has identified the ways of preparing for the activities of both approaches, their importance, their procedural requirements, their target groups, the ways of moderating the dialogues and discussions to get the needed data and achieve the goals of the research as a whole. This training is part of the preparations for implementing a study on the legal aid needs of gender based violence survivors, as well as to assess the legal help provided for them, noting that MUSAWA has signed an agreement with the Italian Development Cooperation to prepare this study/assessment.



Media Interviews

9/6/2019 – [Radio interview](#) on the police failure to follow up with the citizens' complaints. (Alam-Hebron, General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi).

18/6/2019 – [TV interview](#) on abolishing the decree law on the High Criminal Court. (Wattan TV, General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi).

18/6/2019 – [Radio interview](#) on abolishing the decree law on the High Criminal Court. (Ajyal Radio Network, General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi).

18/6/2019 — [Radio interview](#) on abolishing the decree law on the High Criminal Court. (Nissa FM, General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi).

19/6/2019 – [Press interview](#) on abolishing the decree law on the High Criminal Court. (Donia Al-Watan, General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi).



Other Activities

Attending a meeting with the Law Faculty at AL-Israa University on “The level of harmonizing the academic courses at the college with the international covenants”. The meeting was held on 18/6/2019, whereas MUSAWA was represented by Adv. Momen Hattab, the Legal Awareness & Training Officer at MUSAWA/ Gaza.

Attending the meeting of the General Assembly of the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network. The meeting was held on 19/6/2019, whereas MUSAWA was represented by the General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Participating in the third session of the social community consultations. The session was held on 22/6/2019 at the Grand Park Hotel in Ramallah, with the participation of representatives of the civil society, and a number of judges, prosecution members, and lawyers. MUSAWA was represented by the General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, and the Executive Director, Ahlam Tarayra.

Participating in a special workshop on the constitutional principles in /Palestine, which was organized by Miftah Organization, the Constitutional Studies Centre, and the Women Media & Development Center TAM. The workshop took place on 25/6/2019 at the Grand Park Hotel, and MUSAWA was represented by the Executive Director, Ahlam Tarayra.

Participating in a workshop organized by Bisan Center for Research & Development on the crises of first aid and emergencies. The workshop was held on 20/6/2019, and MUSAWA was represented by Adv. Shorouq Abu Qare', the Legal Awareness & Training Officer at MUSAWA/ Ramallah.

MUSAWA's
Partners
2019



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority