



NEWSLETTER

March 2017

MUSAWA Demands Thwarting of Draft Decree-Law Amending the Supreme Constitutional Court Law

MUSAWA sent a legal memo to the Prime Minister demanding that the Draft Decree-Law Amending the Supreme Constitutional Court Law be thwarted, given that it is void of the requirements necessary for enforcing Article (43) of the Basic Law, in addition to compromising the rights which citizens are entitled-to by the Constitution, and deviating from the provisions of the international treaties Palestine has acceded-to.

[Full memo \(Arabic\).](#)

[Brief of key points \(English\).](#)

MUSAWA Participates in the Public Prosecution's 7th Annual Conference

Represented by its Legal and Technical Adviser, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, MUSAWA took part in the Public Prosecution's Seventh Annual Conference, held in Jericho in the period 16-17-18/03/2017. A position paper developed by MUSAWA was presented in the conference. The paper tackled the deteriorating situation of the justice sector and how to escape it, in addition to the Public Prosecution's role when speaking of interrogation and detention, its identity and independence (Mr. Barghouthi's speech [here](#)).

Consultation Session with Civil Society Organizations to Examine the Justice Sector Crisis

As part of its policy to consult with partner organizations, MUSAWA participated on 07/03/2017 in a meeting, held at the headquarters of Al-Haq Organization, with a number of Civil Society Organizations that are concerned with good governance and the rule of law. The meeting aimed at raising a discussion on the crisis of the justice sector and the means by which it can be overcome. In this meeting, MUSAWA presented a position paper on the matter.

The Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network

On 07/03/2017, MUSAWA organized a meeting for the members and coordinators of the PHRDs' Network in its Gaza Office. The meeting discussed the members' suggestions regarding the possibility of a new project for the Network. This is in addition to a monthly meeting in the governorate of Gaza and the north, held on 16/3/2017.

**Palestinian
Human
Rights
Defenders**



Raising Awareness among Marginalized Groups

Training Courses in Constitutional Rights – Political, Civil, Social, Economic and Cultural



MUSAWA conducted two training courses for marginalized groups: the first course was held in cooperation with Cooperation for Community Development Association in Rafat/ Salfit, and the second one was held in Jabalia/ Gaza with the help of Bena'a Society for Development and Empowerment. The trainings were held for 3 consecutive days, tackling the topic of Constitutional Rights – Political, Civil, Social, Economic and Cultural. The courses attracted a total of 90 people, including 43 women (more details [here](#)). Two similar training

courses were also carried out in Al-Dheisheh refugee camp/ Bethlehem and in Khuza'a/ Khan Yunis. A total of 91 people, including 57 women, participated in the trainings (more details [here](#)).

The training courses targeted women, workers, refugees, people with disabilities for the overall objective of spreading the culture of human rights in marginalized areas and introducing marginalized groups to their rights and the legal tools available for them to protect these rights.

Legal Memos

MUSAWA's Interventions

In March, MUSAWA received two legal complaints. The first complaint revolved around the obstruction of a lawyer's work as he was visiting his client. The second complaint was about the so-called administrative arrest 'upon request from the Governor'. MUSAWA tackled the first complaint through a legal memo that was sent to His Excellency Attorney General, Dr. Ahmad Barrak, demanding respect for the lawyer's rights to contact his client and perform his duties. The second complaint was addressed through legal counselling, knowing that MUSAWA had announced its views regarding the illegitimacy of detentions upon request from the Governor several times. A detailed memo in this regard was sent to the Legal Adviser to Mr. President and was published in "Eye on Justice".

07/03/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance/ Gaza regarding the cancellation of the International Women's Day holiday. MUSAWA received a response in writing on 16/03/2017.

14/03/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Prime Minister concerning the excessive use of force to disperse a peaceful protest.

21/03/2017 – A [memo](#) to the attorney General concerning the violation of a lawyer's right to contact his client.

22/03/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Head of the Advisory and Legislation Bureau regarding the issuance of the Palestinian gazette contrary to the law, as it contains materials in the English language. MUSAWA received a response from the bureau on 30/03/2017, and another response on 03/04/2017 from the Attorney General.



TV & Radio: Episodes and Interviews

On 7/3/2017, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Advisor, Ibrahim Barghouhti, participated in an interview on Raya FM to talk about the Personal Status Law and the need to its amendment in light of the results that were reached following a round table discussion organized by the Women's Technical Affairs Committee, in which MUSAWA had participated the day before the interview.

On 23/3/2017, Adv. Haala Hasanein, a member of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), participated in a [radio episode](#) titled "Fair Trial Guarantees", which was aired through Gaza FM on 23/3/2017.

Adv. Mohammad Al-Loh, a member of the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network and the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), participated in a [radio episode](#) under the title "Labor Rights in the Palestinian Labor Law". The episode was aired on 20/3/2017 through Al-Azhar University Radio.

Lawyers Anwar Abu-Adas, a member of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), and Rasha Suboh participated in a [radio episode](#) titled "Key Individual Rights in the Two International Covenants", which was aired on Ajyal on 28/3/2017.

Represented by its Legal Monitoring Officer Rula Musa, MUSAWA along with lawyers Marwan Baroud and Amira Abu-Maghaseeb, both members of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), took part in a [TV episode](#) on 30/03/2017 through Hona Al-Quds TV to talk about equality before the law and the judiciary, fair trial guarantees and access to justice.

Other Activities

MUSAWA takes part in training: "Gender Mainstreaming in the Security Sector Reform"

Invited by Freedom Forum Palestine and DCAF, MUSAWA represented by Ms. Zainab Samarah participated in a training course titled "Gender Mainstreaming in the Security Sector Reform". The training went on for three consecutive days (19-20-21/03/2017), and was held at the Grand Park Hotel in Ramallah.

The training shed light on the importance of incorporating gender mainstreaming in the Palestinian security sector, and the consequent positive effect this would leave on the Palestinian society. Furthermore, a discussion was raised regarding the means through which the society is encouraged to accept gender mainstreaming in the security sector, and the role that CSOs have in this regard.

MUSAWA participates in seminar: “Examining the Paradigm of Preventing Violent Extremism in Light of UN Efforts”



MUSAWA, represented by Yara Istambouli, took part in a seminar titled “Examining the Paradigm of Preventing Violent Extremism in Light of UN Efforts”, which was held on 29/03/2017 at Birzeit University’s Law Institute. In the seminar, the speakers tackled issues related to violence, terrorism, and popular resistance both at the local and international levels. At the end of the seminar, all CSOs were invited to work jointly together on preparing an ethical memo to express their rejection of considering BDS a terrorist movement and to refuse that international funding be conditional on the non-joining or signing of the movement by the funded organizations.



MUSAWA's Partners
2017



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority

