



NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Seven Civil Society Organizations Set Up a Crises Unit Confronting the Violations against Activists of "We Want to Live" Movement in Gaza

With the initiative of MUSAWA, seven civil society organizations decided to set up a crises unit to take on the daily monitoring of the violations against the citizens' right to peaceful assemblies and expression of opinions through the people's movement "We Want to Live" in Gaza, and to stop all kinds of physical assaults, unlawful detaining, and referring civilians to the military judiciary (Citizens, Journalists, Lawyers) against the backdrop of freedom of expression or demanding human rights. The decision was the outcome of a meeting held at [MUSWA's invitation](#) on 20/3/2019, at with the participation of representatives of seven institutions and a number of lawyer and human rights activists. During the meeting, the violations monitored by the participant organizations, which more than 300 detainees were subjected to, were reviewed, in addition to physical attacks against 36 journalists, and 25 violent disruption of public assemblies, not to mention tens of summonses issued by the military judiciary against civilians, and other unlawful actions, what triggered MUSAWA to issue a [position paper](#) in which the center denounced those behaviors. The meeting agreed on a bunch of procedures to be taken in the context of a crises unit, including: electronic documentation of violations, organizing solidarity stands, issuing position papers concerning the violations and following them up with the official bodies, which in their turn are responsible for ensuring the citizens' rights to be prosecuted before regular judiciary, and ensuring fair trial guarantees, accounting the attackers and releasing the detainees. [Find more here.](#)

MUSAWA a Monitoring Member on the Judicial Competition for the Appointment of Magistrates 2019

MUSAWA responded to the invitation send to it to take part in the monitoring process over both the written and oral exams of the mentioned judicial competition, MUSAWA nominated three of its members, Adv. Angham Mansour, the Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Shorouq AbuQare', Legal Awareness & Training Officer, and Ms. Ruba Bakeer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, to represent the center in the exam, which was held on 7/3/2019 at the Modern University College, with the participation of 124 candidates distributed in two halls located under the supervision of a committee headed by the High Court Judge, Eman Naser Al-Deen, and the membership of the High Court Judges, Farid Aqel and Bassam Hijjawi, the Court of Appeal judge, Hazem Dkeidek, and the enforcement judge, Kamal Jabr. MUSAWA's team did not record any negative remarks on the regular exam procedures or the behavior of the oversight committee, which indicates that the exam procedures met the adopted legal standards, including closing the exam papers duly. [Find More Here.](#)

MUSAWA's Interventions

During March, MUSAWA received 12 complaints on:

- 1) Judicial Mistake;
- 2) Refraining from implementing a judicial ruling;
- 3) Breaching the judicial post's duties;
- 4) Conducting a civil procedure without notifying the complainant and faking the complainant's signature on the power of attorney certificate;
- 5) subjugating custody;
- 6) Fair trial and investigation guarantees;
- 7) Fair trial and investigation guarantees;
- 8) Physical attacking;
- 9) The right to harmonize bank transaction services;
- 10) Discrimination against persons with visual disabilities;
- 11) Failure in investigating a fake power of attorney at the public prosecution;
- 12) A Collective complaint made by the Blank Passports' holders.

MUSAWA provided two legal consultations regarding the first complaint, whereas memos were prepared regarding the other complaints in order to send them to the competent bodies.

Legal Memos

16/3/2019 – [Position Paper](#) "MUSAWA Condemns the Prosecution of Lawyer Momen Natour and Human Rights Activists in Gaza".

18/3/2019 – [Position Paper](#) "MUSAWA Calls for Setting up a Crises Unit to Follow Up on Human Rights Violations and the Violence Used Against the Peaceful Movement in Gaza".

21/3/2019 – [Memo](#) to the head and members of the High Judicial Council on MUSAWA's Monitoring Report on the Judicial Competition for the Appointment of Magistrates 2019.

18/3/2019 – [Position Paper](#) "The Government's Decision to Appoint a Driver for Its Members after the End of Its Mandate Must be canceled".

MUSAWA Signs Memorandums of Understanding with Community Based Organizations

MUSAWA has signed two memorandums of understanding with the Palestinian Crescent Authority for Relief and Development, and the Olive Roots Associations, to carry out joint activities, enhance relationships between the two parties and exchange experience in different related fields. In addition, the MUSAWA's office in Gaza hosted Ms. Muna Abu Jadallah, the Community-Based Initiatives Training Officer at the Community Service and Continuing Education Center at the UKS, to explore avenues of collaboration between the two bodies, and sign a memorandum of understanding accordingly. This step is part of MUSAWA's effort to promote a culture of the rule of law through strengthening the role of community-based organizations.



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 West Bank and Gaza Strip, including the Military Court, the Shariah Court, the Regular Court, the Supreme Court of Justice and the Corruption Court in Ramallah, the Regular & Shariah Courts of Nablus, Tulkarem's Regular Court, Jenin's Regular Court, the Regular and Sharia Courts of Qalqilya, the Regular and Sharia Courts of Salfit, the Magistrate's and Sharia Courts of Tubas, the Regular and Sharia Courts of Bethlehem, the Sharia Court of Birzeit, the Regular and Sharia Courts of Jericho, Dura's Magistrate's Court, in the West bank. In Gaza, the team visited Gaza's Court Compound, where 11 violations were monitored and documented. These visits come as part of MUSAWA's work as a watchdog organization which monitors law-violations and promotes the rule of law.



MUSAWA Conducts a Series of Workshops during Women's Month

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 16 workshops, 12 of them were conducted in the West Bank, and four in the Gaza Strip. These workshops came as part of MUSAWA's campaigns on the International Women Day and the Mother Day.



A total of 426 people participated in the workshops, 405 of them were women. These workshops come as part of the Legal Clinic program, under which MUSAWA conducts awareness workshops and offers legal counseling in marginalized areas, both in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [Find More Here.](#)



MUSAWA Following up on Hajar Harb's Trial Proceedings

MUSAWA, represented by Adv. Momen Hattab, the Legal Awareness & Training Officer at Gaza's office, followed up on the trial proceedings of Hajar Harb, who was being trialled for publishing an investigative report on the corruption of the Medical Transfers Department in Gaza. Ms. Harb was charged with 4 charges including: impersonation, and assaulting the Ministry of health by disseminating false news about it. In its turn, MUSAWA has followed up on the trial session from the beginning until the sentencing hearing conducted on 25/3/2019, in which Ms. Harb was announced innocent of all charges. MUSAWA renews its demand to respect the right to express and publicize, and perceives the persecution of journalists and activists as an attempt for stifling opinions, which affects the principles of the rule of law and civilian's constitutional rights.

MUSAWA's BOD Members Meet its National and International Development Partners and Potential Partners

On 14/3/2019, MUSAWA held a meeting of the BOD members with MUSAWA's national & international partners and potential partners, aiming at discussing MUSAWA's unique monitoring role, and the prospects of the center's collaborative legal work with its current and future partners. During the meeting, MUSAWA's board of directors listened to the audience's views and inquiries regarding MUSAWA's work and the ways of developing it.

MUSAWA Receives a Collective Complaint for Blank Passports Holders

MUSAWA received a collective complaint made by 102 citizens of the blank passports holders, in which they expressed the violations they get subjected to for holding blank passports, noting that blank passports are for Palestinians with no Palestinian ID Card since their arrival in Gaza Strip in 1999 coming from different Arabian Countries. The Blank Passports holders were banned from traveling out of Palestine, which restricted their freedom of movement and deprived them of many civil rights, as the right to treatment, travel, education, and citizenship. MUSAWA examined the collective complaint and discussed the ways to address the problem, as MUSAWA adopts several mechanisms to address the complaints it receives, including legal memos, workshops and media coverage. MUSAWA's legal team is working hard to resolve the complaint and inform the official bodies of it, to guarantee the complainants' rights and avoiding any further violations. In this context, Al-Hadath TV published a [TV report](#) on the complaint.

MUSAWA Published More Videos on the Fifth Monitor Report

Since the beginning of 2019, MUSAWA has launched a series of Facebook videos titled "The Fifth Monitor Report", in which it presents the report's results, click [here](#) to watch.



Media Interviews

3/3/2019 – [Radio interview](#) on MUSAWA's position paper regarding militarizing the Police. (General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi / Al-Ray Radio).

6/3/2019 – [TV reportage](#) on the collaborative complaint made by the blank passports holders. (Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Rula Musa / Al-Hadath TV).

26/3/2019 – [TV interview](#) on the Palestinian courts, their types/levels, and competences according to the Palestinian legislation. (Legal Awareness & Training Officer, Adv. Momen Hattab / Baladna TV).

28/3/2019 – [Radio interview](#) on the judicial competition to appoint magistrate's judges and MUSAWA's report on it. (General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi / Alam-Hebron Radio).

Miscellaneous Activities

Participating in a workshop entitled "The role of civil society in monitoring the final recommendations of the CEDAW committee", during which the participants prepared for the National Consultations on the governmental work plan on its regard. The workshop was held on 13/3/2019, and MUSAWA was represented by the Legal monitoring officer, Adv. Angham Mansour.

Participating in a workshop entitled "The legislation issued post 2007 and their effect in the press freedom and the expression freedom". The workshop was held on 14/3/2019, and MUSAWA was represented by the Legal monitoring officer, Adv. Angham Mansour.

Attending a meeting on the national strategy to combat corruption, which was held on 3/3/2019. MUSAWA was represented by the General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Attending a meeting with MUSAWA and CSOs to on the community discussions on reforming the Justice system. The meeting was held on 11/3/2019. MUSAWA was represented by the General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, and the Executive Manager, Ahlam Tarayra.

Attending a meeting with a British expert on the Justice system's status and the ways to reform and develop it. The meeting was held on 12/3/2019. MUSAWA was represented by the General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, and the Executive Manager, Ahlam Tarayra.



Attending a meeting that discussed the ways to develop the collaboration between the CSOs and the Police. The meeting was held on 12/3/2019. MUSAWA was represented by the General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Participating in the meeting of the Justice Sector Working group, which was held on 13/3/2019 in Grand Park Hotel. The meeting aimed at viewing the report of the Ministry of Justice on the achievements of the justice systems and the financial gap in the justice institutions' budget. MUSAWA commented on the report asserting the importance of genuine involvement of the civil society in reforming the Palestinian justice system. MUSAWA was represented by the Executive Manager, Ahlam Tarayra.

Participating in the scientific conference on promoting Palestinian women's rights in the lights of international covenants and experiences, which was organized in collaboration between AL-Israa University and the Women Affair's Center in Gaza. The conference took place on 12/3/2019, and MUSAWA was represented by the Legal Awareness & Training Officer, Adv. Momen Hattab.

MUSAWA's
Partners
2019



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority

