



NEWSLETTER

April 2017

MUSAWA Gives Legal Consultations in Gaza

Strengthening its oversight role on the performance of the justice sector and raising the awareness of marginalized groups on their rights and how to claim these rights, MUSAWA offered legal consultations for the citizens of Gaza, in cooperation with Al-Waleed Charity.



These consultations came as part of MUSAWA's mobile legal clinic program, which will continue throughout the whole year both in the West Bank and Gaza.

MUSAWA's General Assembly and Board of Directors' Meeting

On the 22nd of April, MUSAWA's Board of Directors (BoD) held a meeting to discuss in detail the audited financial report



and the administrative report for the year 2016. In the meeting, both reports were approved, and they were presented to and approved by the members of the General Assembly (GA) in the West Bank and Gaza in their meeting, held on the same day.

In order to further enhance the integrative relationship between MUSAWA's executive staff and its GA members, the meeting included a session that brought the two groups together to examine MUSAWA's Action Plan 2017 to ensure that the GA is more involved in MUSAWA's activities. Furthermore, the meeting addressed the key challenges and obstacles which MUSAWA's employees face, in addition to the difficulties which MUSAWA deals with at the national level.

In memory of Dr. Allam Jarrar, a deceased member of the GA and BoD, the meeting was named after him.



Have you been subjected to any violation against your right to equality before the law and the judiciary, your right to access to justice, or your right to a fair trial? You can file a complaint at MUSAWA – The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession, whether by personal attendance at our office in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip, or by filling out our e-complaints form at www.musawa.ps. MUSAWA is committed to maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of the complainant's identity, guaranteeing his/her rights and safeguarding his/her human dignity.

Lawyers Receive Training Courses

Monitoring and Documentation, and Human Rights in International Treaties



MUSAWA conducted training courses for the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA) in Bethlehem, Nablus, and Gaza governorates. The training focused on the monitoring and documentation of rights-violations, and human rights in international conventions. A total of 86 members attended the training courses both

in the West Bank and Gaza, including 39 female lawyers. The facilitators were chosen from the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups themselves.

The trainings were conducted for the overall purpose of expanding the members' knowledge of human rights and international treaties, and raising their awareness on the general concept of monitoring and documentation so as to ensure that they are capable of fulfilling their duties by monitoring violations against the rule of law. More details [here](#).

MUSAWA's Interventions

In April, MUSAWA received one legal complaint, which revolved around the failure to implement a judicial ruling. MUSAWA addressed the complaint by sending a legal memo to the Attorney General, Dr. Ahmad Barrak, demanding the release of the detainee in question, in respect of the judicial decision.

Legal Memo

23/04/2017 – MUSAWA sent a [legal memo](#) to the Attorney General regarding a complaint MUSAWA received about the failure to implement judicial decisions, demanding that these decisions be respected and enforced.

MUSAWA Cooperates with Palestinian Universities to Develop Curricula of Law Faculties

Deepening the bonds of mutual cooperation with a view to develop legal education and training both theoretically and practically in Palestine, MUSAWA conducted a series of meetings with representatives of law faculties in a number of Palestinian universities in the West Bank and Gaza (more details [here](#)). The overall objective of the meetings was to review human rights courses and recommend the necessary modifications so as to ensure that the curriculum is more in line with the current human rights issues in Palestine, and to make sure it is consistent with the relevant international treaties and conventions. In expression of future cooperation, MUSAWA will sign memoranda of understanding with these universities.

TV & Radio Episodes and Interviews

On 19/04/2017, Adv. Mohammad Abdul-Nabi, a member of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), participated in a [TV episode](#) titled “Key Individual Rights in the Two International Covenants”, which was aired on Al-Najah TV.

On 23/04/2017, MUSAWA’s Legal and Technical Advisor, Ibrahim Barghouhti, participated in an [interview](#) on 24 FM to talk about the Decree-Law Amending the Penal Procedure Law, and the authority granted to the Public Prosecution regarding travel bans and pre-arrival screenings.

Adv. Maysa’ Shaheen, a member of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), participated in a [radio episode](#) titled “Fair Trial Guarantees”. The episode was aired on Gaza FM on 18/04/2017.

On 06/04/2017, MUSAWA’s Legal and Technical Advisor, Ibrahim Barghouhti, participated in an interview on Radio Alam/Hebron to talk about the status of the Bar Association in light of the resignation of a number of its Board members.

Represented by its Awareness and Training Officer Momen Al-Hattab, MUSAWA along with lawyers Ahmad Kneita and Shireen Al-Sourani, both members of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups, took part in a [TV episode](#), on 29/04/2017, on Al-Kufiyyah TV to talk about fair trial guarantees: ambitions vs. reality.

Legal Workshops in Fair Trial Guarantees: Reality vs. Ambition



MUSAWA and the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA) conducted a series of legal encounters (a total of 12 workshops) throughout April 2017, covering the following governorates: Gaza, North Gaza, Khan Yunis, Rafah, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Tulqarm, Jenin, and Jericho. The Gaza Strip’s workshops were carried-out in cooperation with a number of Civil Society Organizations. The workshops attracted both trainees and recent lawyers, as well as legal professionals. A total of 301 participants attended the workshops, including 128 women.

Mainly, the encounters aimed at introducing fair trial guarantees as stipulated in international agreements, the Palestinian laws, and the Palestinian Penal Procedure Law. The overall objective was to assess the actual implementation of these guarantees, as provided in international treaties as well as national laws, in the Palestinian courts. More details [here](#).



Other Activities

MUSAWA takes part in the Netherlands' King's Day

Representing MUSAWA, Internal Operations Manager Ahlam Tarayra, Legal and Technical Adviser Ibrahim Barhouthi, and Translator & Media Coordinator Yara Istambouli participated in a reception held by the Netherlands Representative Office in Ramallah on 26/04/2017 on the occasion of King's Day. In the occasion, Yara Istambouli provided oral translation for the government's representative's speech, Mr. Ziyad Abu-Amro, which was given at the beginning of the celebration.

MUSAWA participates in the meeting of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process

Represented by its Internal Operations Manager, Ahlam Tarayra, and its Legal and Technical Adviser, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, MUSAWA participated in the meeting of the Civil Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process, which was held in Ramallah on 23/04/2017. The meeting focused on examining the Decree-Law Amending the Penal Procedure Law. At the end of the meeting, the attendees agreed on issuing a statement on behalf of all of the participants to demand its withdrawal and cancellation, a goal that was eventually achieved.



MUSAWA's Partners
2017



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority

