



# NEWSLETTER

November 2017

## Position Papers

- [Calling on the High Judicial Council to Drop their Case against Judges.](#)
- [The Legal Approach to Ending Arbitrary Detention: Dissolving the Joint Security Committee.](#)
- [Dissolving the joint security committee, repealing its powers, and closing its detention centers are urgent requirements for promoting the rule of law and preserving the human dignity of the Palestinian people.](#)

## MUSAWA's Justice and Law Journal Taught at the Judicial Institute of Jordan

MUSAWA has been informed that Justice and Law Journal, a periodic publication which MUSAWA issues on a bi-annual basis, will be taught as part of a course about commenting on judicial rulings, offered by the Judicial Institute of Jordan. MUSAWA heard the news from the teacher of Constitutional Law in Jordan, Dr. Nafis Saleh Al-Mdanat, who in turn asked that MUSAWA continue to provide him with its latest publications, particularly Eye on Justice and Justice and Law.

More details about MUSAWA's publications [here](#).

## On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, MUSAWA Conducts Awareness Workshops in Marginalized Areas

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, MUSAWA conducted three workshops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They dealt with the issue of violence against women in legal terms, with reference to the CEDAW Convention and the Palestinian legislation guaranteeing the effective legal protection for women against violence, in addition to the procedures for filing complaints of violence against women, and the institutions supporting abused women to offer them the necessary legal assistance. At the end of the workshops, the floor was open for discussion and legal advice was given to the participants. More details [here](#).



## Legal Memos

02/11/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Head of the Military Justice Commission, Major General Ismail Farraj, concerning a complaint addressing the unlawful detention and violation of a detainee's right to contact his family. MUSAWA received a response on 09/11/2017.

26/11/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Deputy General of the Palestinian Ministry of Information, Dr. Mahmoud Khalifeh, concerning the decision issued by the Deputy General Manager of Publications and Media Affairs, demanding "A7la FM" radio station to appoint a new director as an alternative for Journalist Reem Al-Omari within a period of two weeks.

28/11/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Head of the Military Justice Commission, Major General Ismail Farraj, demanding that the Military Prosecution be requested to initiate immediate investigation, arrest and referral of procedures with the accused in the crime of kidnapping the lawyer Mohammad Hussein and of overstepping the authority of Nablus Magistrate Court.

### MUSAWA's Interventions

During November, MUSAWA received four legal complaints: having unjustified reservations against a complaint which was submitted to the General Secretariat of the High Judicial Council; the loss of a case file with its entire contents; compromising employment rights based on the decree-law on early retirement; and a case of strife and discord. While MUSAWA responded to the first three complaints by offering legal advice to the complainants, the fourth complaint was transferred to the competent authority.

### MUSAWA Holds Introductory Meetings for New Members of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups



In cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), MUSAWA

organized and held meetings to introduce the new members who have recently joined the groups both in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The members were introduced to MUSAWA's work and its volunteering groups, and the important role they play in raising legal

awareness amongst society members, and in the monitoring and documentation of violations which take place in the justice system, in addition to receiving complaints from the citizens. Throughout the meetings, the members got to know the templates they will use in reporting law-violations, and it was explained to them that they will be given the opportunity to publish their articles and studies in MUSAWA's journal. At the end, MUSAWA presented its incentive system and heard the members' recommendations for ensuring the sustainability of the groups.

## Field Visits to the Pillars of Justice

In cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), MUSAWA conducted a series of field visits to the pillars of justice in the West bank and Gaza throughout the month of November 2017: Gaza's courts complex; the Sharia court of Al-Shuja'iyah; the court of northern Gaza; and Ramallah's regular court, Prosecution, military court, and Sharia court. These visits come as part of MUSAWA's work as a watchdog organization which 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 how to claim them, MUSAWA, in cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), offered legal consultations for marginalized groups in the West Bank (Raboud- Hebron, Ein Al Sultan- Jericho, Ein Areek, Kufur Ni'meh, Al Seema- Hebron, and Al Mughayer- Ramallah) and the Gaza Strip (east of Gaza governorate, Khuza'a- Khan Yunis, and Wadi Al Salka). The said consultations were preceded by an introduction to legal consultations, and then legal advice was given mainly on matters related to women's rights, CEDAW, women's rights according to Sharia, the elimination of violence against women, children's rights, the freedom of expression, fair trial guarantees, digital extortion, and the Decree-Law No. 16 for 2017 on Cybercrime.

Moreover, MUSAWA organized a field visit which the students of Al-Quds University made to the police station in Bethlehem, in addition to two workshops, which MUSAWA held to train lawyers and build their legal capacities in two areas: inheritance and legal terminology in English.



## MUSAWA's Radio Program: "The Law under Spotlight"



"The Law under Spotlight" is a legal radio program that deals with the existing laws, and the rights and duties of citizens under these laws. It sheds light on how much the current laws conform with human rights international treaties. The episodes aim at introducing the Palestinian public to the laws and their provisions, and the appropriate mechanism for accessing their rights in a modern and civilized manner that contributes to civil peace and the rule of law.





You can listen to our program every Monday at 12:00 PM, on-air broadcast through Hawa Nablus (106.8 FM) radio station, hosted by the journalist Ala' Bani-Fadel, in partnership with MUSAWA and the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network (PHRDs).

[Episode \(14\) 06/11/2017](#) – *the amendments of the decree-law on cybercrime; meeting needs or keeping the crisis?* Guest: Mr. Ammar Jamous, a legal researcher at the Independent Commission of Human Rights.

[Episode \(15\) 13/11/2017](#) – *the legality/illegality of arrest upon the request of the Prime Minister.* Guest: Adv. Raed Abdul Hameed, a former judge and a member of the Arab Organization of Young Lawyers- Palestine.

[Episode \(16\) 20/11/2017](#) – *violence against women.* Guest: Adv. Rawia Abu-Zheiri, a member of the Bar Council and Head of the Bar's committee of women affairs.

[Episode \(17\) 27/11/2017](#) – *determinants of the relationship between the media and the executive authority.* Guest: Ms. Naila Khalil, an instructor in the institute of media at Al-Quds University.

## TV & Radio Interviews

Represented by its General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, MUSAWA participated in several interviews over the radio and television:

11/11/2017 – [radio interview](#) (MAWWAL – Bethlehem) about the kidnapping of the lawyer Mohammad Hussein from the courtroom of Nablus's Magistrate Court.

29/11/2017 – radio interview (ALAM – Hebron) on the strike of the Bar Association, demanding that the perpetrators of the crime of kidnapping the lawyer be held accountable. Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi took part in another [interview](#) on the same matter (MAWWAL – Bethlehem).

28/11/2017 – Watan News Agency [interviewed](#) MUSAWA's General Manager to talk about the strike of the lawyers.

25/11/2017 – [radio interview](#) (ALAM – Hebron) about the draft decree-law on the Court of Local Councils.

## Other Activities

**Participating in the 16-day campaign for the elimination of violence against women around the world**, on 26/11/2017. MUSAWA was represented by the Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Angham Mansour.

**Taking part in the discussions about the Palestinian report on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination**, at the invitation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the occupied Palestinian territories (OHCHR oPt), on 07/11/2017. MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi and Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra.

This was followed by a consultation round, organized on 09/11/2017 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same subject, in which Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Angham Mansour, participated.

**Contributing to a discussion on possible means for amending the electoral system**, at the invitation of Miftah, on 08/11/2017. MUSAWA was represented by its General Manager, Ibrahim Barghouthi.

**Participating in discussions about the Palestinian report on the Convention against Torture**, at the invitation of the OHCHR oPt, on 14/11/2017. MUSAWA was represented by its General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi. This was followed by a consultation round, organized on 16/11/2017 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same subject, in which MUSAWA's Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Angham Mansour, participated.

**MUSAWA's Board member, Adv. Fayzeh Al-Shawish, took a leading part in the activities which took place on the international day for eliminating violence against women in Bethlehem, on 26/11/2017.**



**Taking part in the "Conference on the Palestinian Local Council Elections – Analytical Perspectives of Achievements and Challenges"** held on 22/11/2017 at Bethlehem University, at the invitation of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. MUSAWA was represented by Public Relations Officer Shadha Musallam and Financial Manager Marina Qaqish.

**Taking part in the "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People"** held on 29/11/2017 in Ramallah, at the invitation of PNGO Network and the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council. MUSAWA was represented by Public Relations Officer Shadha Musallam.

**Taking part in the conference held by the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization against Domestic Violence against Women (Al Muntada)**, titled "Calling for the Endorsement of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act", and held on 29/11/2017 at Al-Karmel Hotel in Ramallah. MUSAWA was represented by its Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Ruba Bakeer.

**Participating in a conference titled "The Reality of Woman Journalists in Palestine (Obstacles and Challenges)"**, held on 29/11/2017. The conference tackled the vitality of promoting the freedom of expression, while shedding light on key violations against Palestinian woman journalists. MUSAWA was represented by its Legal Awareness and Training Officer, Adv. Shurooq Abu-Qare'.