



NEWSLETTER

February 2017

MUSAWA Demands Immediate Action by Attorney General Regarding Detention of Sami Al-Saa'i

In cooperation with the PHRDs' Network, MUSAWA sent a [memo](#) to His Excellency Attorney General on 13/02/2017 demanding the verification of Sami Al-Saa'i's detention procedures and his release, after a complaint was lodged by Sami's wife.

Another [memo](#) was sent to the Attorney General on 19/02/2017 after a second complaint was submitted by Sami's wife about him being tortured while he is held in detention. On 27/02/2017, MUSAWA received a response to its last memo by the Attorney General, stating that the detainee Sami Al-Saa'i was not subjected to torture.

MUSAWA Launches First International Conference for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in Palestine

Wednesday 22-02-2017 – Ramallah and Gaza: MUSAWA launched the first international conference for HRDs in Palestine, in cooperation with the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network (PHRDs), supported by the EU. The conference was facilitated via video conference at the hall of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Holding the title *"Empowering, Protecting and Activating the Role of Human Rights Defenders"*, the conference attracted around 450



male and female participants in the West Bank and Gaza, aiming at empowering HRDs in Palestine while shedding light on the mechanisms available to ensure

further protection and enhancement for Palestinian HRDs at the national as well as the international level.

The conference began with welcome notes from the PHRDs' Network, Bar Association, Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), Press House-Palestine, EU Representative Office, and MUSAWA. This was followed by a [short video](#) about the PHRDs' Network...read more on page 5

In the same context, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Advisor, Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated on 23/02/2017 in a TV interview on Al-Quds Educational Channel to speak about the conference.

Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network: Monthly Meetings in WB & Gaza



Throughout February, eight meetings in eight different areas within the WB and Gaza (Ramallah, Jerusalem and Jericho; Salfeet and Nablus; Tulqarm and Qalqilya; Jenin and Tubas; Bethlehem and Hebron; Gaza and North Gaza; Gaza's Middle Governorate; Khan Yunis and Rafah) were carried-out by MUSAWA, in cooperation with the PHRDs' Network. The meetings were attended by 107 members, including 55 female participants. More details [here](#).

Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network: Field Visits to Courts and Prisons

MUSAWA and the PHRDs' Network organized and conducted a number of field visits to court houses and prisons both in the West Bank and Gaza: Gaza Court Complex (Magistrate and First Instance), magistrate courts and courts of first instance in Deir Al-Balah and Khan Yunis, Ramallah's Military Court (2 visits), and Jenin's Military Court. The visits were carried-out by a total number of 65 members of the PHRDs' Network, including 29 female members. Furthermore, 22 members of the Network, including 10 female participants, visited correction and rehabilitation centers in the West Bank and Gaza. More details can be found [here](#).



MUSAWA Discusses Draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court

On the 7th of February, MUSAWA, represented by its Legal and Technical Advisor Ibrahim Barhouthi, along with the Attorney General, Minister of Justice, High Judicial Council, and Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process discussed the Civil Society Organizations' vision regarding the Draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court, in a meeting that was held at the headquarters of the Independent Commission for Human Rights.

Legal Memo

On February 23rd, MUSAWA sent a [memo](#) to the Head of the Higher Shari'a Court Council/ Head of the Supreme Shari'a Court, His Eminence Sheikh Dr. Hassan Al-Joujou, after a complaint was lodged at MUSAWA's office for violating Shari'a Court procedures and compromising fair trial guarantees.



The Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process Sends Memo to President: Draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court

On the 2nd of February, the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process sent a legal memo to Mr. President through his Legal Advisor, Hassan Al-Ouri, concerning the Draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court, following a review by human rights organizations and specialized legal experts, including MUSAWA. In their memo, the members of the Coalition expressed their views on the draft decree-law and pointed-out key violations it gives rise to. They demanded Mr. President not to issue the draft decree-law. ([Arabic](#)/ [English](#))

Under the same topic, Palestive Today TV broadcasted a live interview with MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Advisor, Ibrahim Barghouthi, on 01/02/2017, to declare where the Coalition stands on the draft decree-law.

MUSAWA's Interventions

In February, MUSAWA received one complaint, which revolved around the topic of alimony fund. MUSAWA addressed the complaint by offering legal advice, as the subject does not fall within its sphere of competence.

MUSAWA Participates in Meeting of CSOs and Head of Central Elections Commission

As an independent non-governmental monitoring body over general as well as local elections, MUSAWA took part on the 19th of February in an encounter which brought together the Head of the Central Elections Commission (CEC) and representatives of CSOs. The meeting was held to discuss in particular the prospects of conducting the local elections, in addition to addressing the findings of the Head of the CEC's visit to Gaza and the political difficulties to holding elections in Gaza. The attendees also shed light on the CSOs' role in this regard. The meeting was held at the CEC's headquarters in Al-Bireh, and it was attended by the CEC's Head, Hannah Nasser, its Executive Director, Hisham Kheil, and a number of CEC staff members.

MUSAWA Participates in Meeting on Legal Aid

On the 5th of February, MUSAWA participated in a meeting which was held in the headquarters of the Palestinian Bar Association, where a number of Civil Society Organizations gathered to reach an understanding of how to develop a future national system for legal aid in both parts of the country. They also addressed the role played by CSOs in expanding the range of a legal aid network to include CSOs both in the West Bank and Gaza.

Draft Decree-Law on Landlords and Tenants for the Year 2017

Discussion Sessions



Five sessions were carried-out by MUSAWA in Jenin, Nablus, Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah for the purpose of discussing the Draft Decree-Law on Landlords and Tenants (2017) and reaching a unified societal view regarding the matter. The sessions attracted a total of 160 participants, including 70 female participants. More details [here](#).

TV & Radio Interviews

Represented by its Legal and Technical Advisor Ibrahim Barghouthi, MUSAWA participated in a number of radio and TV interviews, all of which addressed the Draft Decree-Law on Landlords and Tenants.

Following is a list of the interviews:

[08/02/2017 – radio interview/Aiyal](#)

08/02/2017 – interview/Al-Quds Net

08/02/2017 – TV interview/Al-Najah

[09/02/2017 – Interview over the phone on](#)

[Al-Fajer TV/ Tulqarm](#)

09/02/2017 – TV interview/Palestine Today

Radio Interviews and Episodes

- Two members of the PHRDs' Network, Mustafa Abu-Zir and Hala Hassaein, participated in a [radio episode](#) that was aired on 01/02/2017 via Gaza FM, where they talked about the important role the Network plays in protecting human rights defenders from violations and law infringements.
- On 08/02/2017, Ms. Iman Fayyad, a PHRDs' Network member, introduced the Network and addressed its most important activities and achievements in a radio episode on Ajyal FM.
- On 14/02/2017, MUSAWA's Legal and technical Advisor, Ibrahim Barghouthi, talked about the failure to implement court rulings and the relevant consequences, in a [radio interview](#) on Radio Alam-Hebron. Mr. Barghouhti also pointed-out the mechanisms by which the relevant bodies are bound to implement judgments.

TV Episodes

- On 01/02/2017, Advocate Abdul Fattah Jaradeh took part in a [TV episode](#) on Al-Kufiyyeh TV- Gaza to talk about the PHRDs' Network and its important role in protecting human rights defenders.
- In the same context, Adv. Mahmoud Abdul Raheem (WB) and media figure Ansam Al-Qatta' (Gaza), both of whom are members of the PHRDs' Network, along with Adv. Ashraf Abu-Hayyeh from Al-Haq, participated on 13/02/2017 in an [episode](#) on Palestine TV. Also, Al-Najah TV hosted a similar [episode](#) on 20/02/2017, where advocates Waseem Anabtawi and Amro Al-Khateeb talked about the same topic.



MUSAWA Launches First International Conference for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in Palestine/ Continuation

The conference agenda covered three panels, each of which was followed by a Q&A session. The panels included representatives of the EU office, Addameer, Amnesty International, OHCHR, the National Society for Democracy and Law, Avaaz, and Privacy International.

Moreover, MUSAWA and the PHRDs' Network highlighted the vitality of endorsing the [Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration \(PHRDD\)](#) by international stakeholders and the Palestinian official authorities so as to ensure the promotion of HRDs in Palestine, in addition to recognizing the Network as an umbrella for social movement and enabling its members of fulfilling their duties without any obstruction, and holding accountable anyone responsible of prejudicing their rights or hindering their work.

More details about the conference and the topics discussed can be found [here](#).



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