



# NEWSLETTER

August 2019

## MUSAWA Concludes a Training Program on Forensic Photography

In collaboration with Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders, and the Law Faculty at Palestine University, MUSAWA's office in Gaza concluded a training course, which is the first of its kind in Palestine, on Forensic Photography from a Human Rights Based Approach perspective. The course, which was attended by 25 lawyers, 13 among them were female, was provided by Adv. Kamal Hijazi, the Crime and Armed Conflicts' researcher. The course aimed to develop the participants' expertise in documenting human rights' violations, by addressing the legal authority of forensic photography, photography forensic analysis, digital evidence, in addition to the importance of forensic photography in preserving human rights. All of the mentioned theoretical aspects were applied during a practical session of training in a simulated crime scene. MUSAWA held a certificate awarding ceremony for all participants for their successful completion of the training. [For more information.](#)



## MUSAWA Hosts the Meeting of the Group of Access to Justice

On 27/8/2019, MUSAWA- The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession hosted the meeting of the group of access to justice in its headquarter in Ramallah. The meeting was attended by the representatives of partner formal institutions. It is worth mentioning that this group is one of the National Team's Groups to the Implementation of Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals.





## Legal Memos and Position Papers

1/8/2019 – [Legal Memo](#) sent to the Attorney General/ Gaza, entitled “Invasion of Privacy and Overstepping the Police Powers' Limits Violate Law Provisions and Require Accountability”.

1/8/2019 – [Position Paper](#) entitled “Legal Mechanism of Public Employment Requires Holding Municipal Elections in Gaza”.

8/8/2019 – Legal Memo sent to the Attorney General/ Gaza, entitled “Your Response to MUSAWA’s [Memo](#) on Refraining from Implementing Judicial Decisions”.

19/8/2019 – [Position Paper](#) entitled “The Judicial Competition for Appointing Sharia Judges in Gaza Might Get Labelled as Unconstitutional”.

22/8/2019 – [Position Paper](#) on MUSAWA's Statement on the Latest President's Decisions.

22/8/2019 – [Legal Memo](#) sent to the Grievances and Human Rights Department at the Palestinian Police on the recurrence of arbitrary detention.

29/8/2019 – A [Response](#) from the Attorney General/ Gaza to MUSAWA’s [Memo](#) on Subjugating Custody.

29/8/2019 – [Position Paper](#) entitled “The Sharia Judiciary in Gaza legalizes "Subjugating Custody" and the Judicial Police Adheres While the Public Prosecution States Claims It Is Not within Its Competence”.



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## MUSAWA’s Interventions

During August, MUSAWA received six complaints on medical malpractice caused by the doctor’s reckless and negligent behavior, two complaints on the crises of trainee lawyers, death in custody, excluding a lawyer from a recruitment competition, and unlawful detention. MUSAWA sent two legal memos regarding two complaints, referred two complaints to the Chairman of the Training Committee at the Palestinian Bar Association/ Gaza, while two complaints are still being followed up.

## 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 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 3 workshops in the West Bank (Beit Foreek) and in Gaza (Beit Lahia, Khoza'a) which dealt with the following topics: [Women's Sharia rights](#), [the right to political participation](#), and [the personal status laws in force in comparison with CEDAW](#). 87 participants attended the aforementioned workshops, 85 of them were women. On the margins of those workshops, several legal consultations were provided for the participants.



## 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 Gaza Strip, including the Sharia Court and the courts compound in Gaza, as part of MUSAWA's role in monitoring and documenting violations in promotion of the rule of law principle. In this context, MUSAWA's office in Gaza held two meetings for Lawyers for the Rule of Law Group (friends of MUSAWA), and the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network, to assess the violations monitored in Al-Wosta Sharia Court and Al-Shamal Sharia Court. The meetings were attended by 24 lawyers; six of them were female lawyers.





## MUSAWA Meets the Head of the Regular Judiciary's Substantive Office

On 27/8/2019, MUSAWA's Legal Monitoring Officer in Gaza, Adv. Rula Mousa met the Supreme Court judge, and the Head of the Regular Judiciary's Substantive Office, Adv. Ziad Thabet. The meeting discussed the [24th issue](#) of Eye on Justice and addressed the violations monitored in the work of regular courts in Gaza. In its turn, the Substantive Office welcomed MUSAWA's efforts, pledging to address those violations promptly.



## MUSAWA Hosts Two Workshops Implemented by the Women's Affairs Center and Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi Center

During August, MUSAWA's office in Gaza hosted two workshops implemented by the Women's Affairs Center and Dr. Haider Abdel Shafi Center. The workshops were moderated by Mohammad Hammad, Abdullah Ulwan and Sabah Hamada, who addressed the topics of parenting, positive parenting, and family bonding, while touching upon sub-themes, such as the gender roles, family conceptions, parental responsibility, parenting patterns' effect on families, and the concepts and values of masculinity and femininity. Such workshops are part of the "Engaging Men and Boys in Promoting Gender Equality in Palestine" project, which targets the audiences of households' wives and husbands, engaged youth, and newly married couples.

## MUSAWA Meets the Chairman of the Training Committee at the Palestinian Bar Association in Gaza



On 26/8/2019, MUSAWA's Legal Monitoring Officer in Gaza, Adv. Rula Mousa, met the Chairman of the Training Committee at the Palestinian Bar Association in Gaza, Adv. Rana Alhaddad. The meeting discussed the reality of trainee lawyers in the Gaza Strip as demonstrated during MUSAWA's [Legal Meeting](#) on the Reality of Trainee Lawyers in Gaza. In its turn, Adv. Rana stated that the many bodies assume the responsibility of the training crises, including the association itself, the Ministry of

Education, the Universities, and their admission criteria, announcing the association's decision to adopt 70% as the minimum admission average at law faculties. In the same context, Adv. Rana asserted that this is an ethical crisis, which requires the trainees' collaboration with the association, through filing complaints with it, to ease the detection of gaps and guide the efforts to overcome them. The meeting resulted in agreeing on transferring the related complaints filed with MUSAWA to the association, in order to promote its monitoring role over the training system.

## TV and Radio Interviews

6/8/2019 - [Radio Interview](#) on The Landlord and Tenant Act. (Hawa Nablus/ General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Al-Barghouthi).

21/8/2019 – [Radio Interview](#) on the latest presidential decisions to dismiss the chancellors of the President, and to recover money from the members of the former Government. (Ajyal Radio Network/ General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Al-Barghouthi).

21/8/2019 – [Radio Interview](#) on appointing magistrate judges & the vacant post of the director of the Justice Training Institute. (Alam- Hebron/ General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Al-Barghouthi).

22/8/2019 – [TV Interview](#) on the latest presidential decisions to dismiss the chancellors of the President, and to recover money from the members of the former Government. (Wattan TV/ General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Al-Barghouthi).

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## Other Activities

**Participating in a meeting on community consultations on reforming the Justice System**, which was held on 1/8/2019. MUSAWA was represented by the General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Al-Barghouthi.

**Participating in the meeting of the Justice Sector Working Group**, within the National Team to the realization of Goal 16 of the sustainable development goals, which was held on 20/8/2019. MUSAWA was represented by the General Director, Adv. Ibrahim Al-Barghouthi.

**Attending a hearing session on the work and role of the Judicial Police**, which was held on 28/8/2019. MUSAWA was represented by the Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Angham Mansour.

MUSAWA's  
Partners  
2019



The Netherlands  
Representative Office to  
the Palestinian Authority