



NEWSLETTER

February 2018



MUSAWA Moving Steadily towards Joint Institutional Effort to Unify and Rebuild the Justice System

Promoting the joint efforts made for the unification and rebuilding of the justice system, MUSAWA continues to collaborate with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to establish mutual grounds on the ongoing deterioration of the justice system, arriving at an agreement on the legal and national steps that should be taken towards reform. The Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislation, the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council, and the Coalition for Economic and Social Rights, all representatives of dozens of Palestinian CSOs, convened at Al-Haq organization to discuss the issue of boycotting the High Criminal Court. [The CSOs expressed their support for the position of the Bar Council regarding the boycott of the High Criminal Court](#) and their pioneering role in defending rights, freedoms, and human dignity.

Additionally, the CSOs issued a [position paper](#) demanding the Presidnet to abolish the Landlord-Tenant Draft Decree-Law and put it on the table for national discussion. They stressed that the said decree-law is only one of the many decree-laws to be approved by the Council of Ministers and put into force in complete secrecy and without any consultation whatsoever with

the community, particularly in the absence of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Furthermore, [the CSOs demanded the High Judicial Council to realize the judges' right to the freedom of expression](#). Their demands come in light of the Council's decision to refer a member of the Supreme Court, Judge Izzat Al-Ramini, for investigation following his participation in a workshop about the popular protection of the judiciary. The High Judicial Council had referred Judge Abdullah Ghazlan, who is also a member of the Supreme Court, for investigation once for expressing his views on the worsening status of the judiciary. Not only this, but the Council also suspended Judge Ghazlan's membership in the High Judicial Council, in violation of the law as well as the will of the majority of the Supreme Court judges (watch [slideshow video](#)).

Moreover, [the CSOs decided to establish a truth committee to investigate the ongoing deterioration in the judiciary](#) as part of a meeting they held to discuss updates on the profound crisis the Palestinian judiciary is currently in. This meeting comes as part of a series of ongoing meetings which aim at controlling the bleeding of the judiciary, arriving at the end goal of having a judicial authority established on bases of independence, impartiality, and effectiveness. This shall be perceived as a top national and constitutional priority, as it is a natural right the community is entitled-to.

MUSAWA's Interventions

During February, MUSAWA received four legal complaints: 1) violating fair trial guarantees; 2) unlawful detention; 3) detention inconsistent with the law and the judiciary; and 4) the Public Prosecution's failure to implement the law and fulfill its duties.

MUSAWA responded to the first complaint by sending a legal memo to the Attorney General/Gaza, titled "[the Police's Monopoly and Hegemony Manifest a Security System Inconsistent with the Law](#)". Concerning the second and third complaint, a meeting was held on 4/3/2018 with the Attorney General, who ordered the Public Prosecution office to contact the police and take the necessary legal action regarding both complaints. Accordingly, one of the detainees was released. Concerning the third complaint, it is still being looked into.

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, MUSAWA along with its volunteers' network offered legal consultations for marginalized groups in Al-Namous village, Heta village, Turmusaya Boys School, and Al-Dheisheh refugee camp. The consultations were preceded by an introduction to legal consultations, and then legal advice was given mainly on matters related to the Cybercrime Law, the law on the protection of juveniles, women rights, and child rights.



Legal Memos and Position Papers

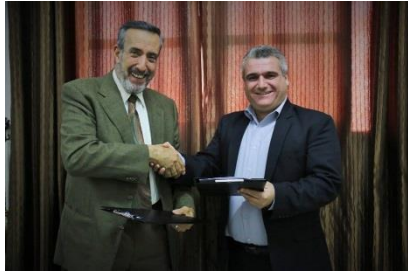
19/02/2018 – [legal memo](#) to the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission, and a [memo](#) to the President, addressing the failure to fulfill legal obligations of public service (suspending the membership of Judge Abdullah Ghazlan from the High Judicial Council).

12/02/2018 – [position paper](#) about the Draft Decree-Law Amending the Anti-Corruption Law.

Field Visits to the Pillars of Justice

In cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), MUSAWA carried-out 13 field visits to the pillars of justice. The visits included Ramallah's regular court, Sharia court, military court, Supreme Court, and anti-corruption court; and Jericho's Sharia court. These visits come as part of MUSAWA's oversight role in monitoring law-violations and promoting the rule of law in Palestine.

MUSAWA Signs MOU with Palestinian Organizations and Universities



Seeking cooperation on the implementation of activities that promote the legal skills and capacities of law students, MUSAWA signed Memos Of Understanding (MOU) with the American University, the Modern University College, and Al-Isra' University. Additionally, MUSAWA signed MOUs with Al-Shurooq organization for juveniles in Al-Dheisheh camp; and the Youth Development Society, the Child Services Society, Al-Najadah Society, Hay Al-Salam Society, and "Kun Insan" Team for People with Disabilities in Gaza.

MUSAWA Finalizes Moot Court Competition for Palestinian Law Students

MUSAWA, in cooperation with Dr. Haider Abdel Shafi Center, announces the end of a moot court competition in a criminal case which targeted a group of law students from Palestinian universities in Gaza.

MUSAWA is proud to say that the last session of the moot court witnessed a wide-ranging audience, consisting of lawyers, law students, and teachers; a total of 90 participants, including 40 women and the two competing teams:

- 1) "Sarh Al-Adalah Team" from the Faculty of Law at Al-Azhar University and the Faculty of Sharia and Law at the Islamic University;
- 2) "Haider Abdel Shafi Team" from the Faculty of Law and Judicial Practice at the University of Palestine.

([Moot Court Video](#)) (More details [here](#)).

Training Courses for Lawyers

MUSAWA held two training courses during February 2018. Twenty-nine trainee lawyers and recently practicing lawyers from all over the West Bank participated in the trainings. Both courses were carried-out in MUSAWA's Ramallah Office to build the legal capacities of students. The courses addressed the following topics: "Administrative Law", "Constitutional Law", and "How to become a Leader?".



MUSAWA, UNDP, and PCBS: Legal Monitor Report 2018

MUSAWA met with a UNDP representative to discuss the production and publishing the [Legal Monitor Report](#) for 2018, in close cooperation with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). The Legal Monitor Report is MUSAWA's tool to track the changes taking place in the justice system over the years (every two years).

purpose, which is mainly to rebuild and protect the judiciary. Preparations are in course for a third meeting, where the findings of the committee will be assessed for approval.

Endeavors to Establish Civic Coalition for the Reform of the Judiciary

MUSAWA's General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated in a civil society meeting, held on 08/02/2018, which aimed at discussing the formation of a coalition, and was followed by another meeting after which a committee was established by the participants of the first meeting. The committee discussed the title and tasks of the civil coalition for the reform and protection of the judiciary, and they identified its

TV & Radio Interviews



MUSAWA took part in a number of interviews to address its initiative for the unification and rebuilding of the justice system:

- 01/02/2018 – MUSAWA's Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra participated in a [radio interview](#) through Mawwal FM.
- 05/02/2018 – MUSAWA's General Assembly member, Dr. Abdul Kareem Shbeir, participated in a [radio interview](#) through Gaza FM.
- 05/02/2018 – MUSAWA's Executive Manager, Ahlam Tarayra, participated in a [radio interview](#) through Radio Ramallah.
- 06/02/2018 – MUSAWA's Board member, Islah Hassanieh, was [interviewed](#) by Al-Kufiyyeh TV.
- 06/02/2018 – MUSAWA's Executive Manager, Ahlam Tarayra, participated in a [TV interview](#) through Al-Falastiniyeh TV.
- 07/02/2018 – MUSAWA's Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Rula Mousa, participated in a [radio interview](#) through Al-Isra' radio station.
- 11/02/2018 – MUSAWA's Legal Training and Awareness Officer, Adv. Momen Hattab, participated in a [radio interview](#) through Al-Azhar radio station.
- 11/02/2018 – MUSAWA's Executive Manager, Ahlam Tarayra, participated in a [radio interview](#) through Sawt Al-Rayi.
- 15/02/2018 – MUSAWA's General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, took part in a [radio interview](#) through Alam/Hebron radio station.
- 18/02/2018 – MUSAWA's General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, took part in a [radio interview](#) through Ajyal radio station.
- 19/02/2018 – MUSAWA's General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, took part in a radio interview through A7la FM.
- 27/02/2018 – MUSAWA's Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Rula Mousa, was [interviewed](#) by Ma'an TV.



In addition, General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi represented MUSAWA in an [interview](#) with Watan TV, addressing the decision to refer a Supreme Court judge for investigation following his participation in a certain workshop. Ultra Palestine conducted another [interview](#) with Mr. Barghouthi to discuss the same issue. The interviews took place on 13/02/2018.

Furthermore, MUSAWA's Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra took part in a [radio interview](#), held on 12/02/2018 through Ajyal FM, to talk about MUSAWA's views on the Landlord-Tenant Decree-Law

Other Activities

Participating in the meeting of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislation, held at Al-Haq on 01/02/2018, regarding the decision of the High Court of Justice to abolish the Bar Council's boycott of the High Criminal Court. The discussion addressed the possible tool of lobbying and advocacy to support the Coalition's work. MUSAWA was represented by Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra.

Contributing to a discussion on national talks regarding the first periodic report of the State of Palestine under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held on 06/02/2018. MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Business Lunch with the Deputy-Head of Cooperation of the Netherlands Representative Office, on 07/02/2018, which aimed at exchanging ideas on the importance of bringing together official institutions, non-governmental bodies, and key donors in the justice sector, where they can discuss possible mechanisms for joint cooperation in order to improve the sector. MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi and Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra.

Taking part in the Third Justice Conference in Palestine, which tackled the vitality of promoting the role that watchdog bodies play in Gaza's justice system. The conference was held on 22/02/2018, and MUSAWA was represented by Legal Monitoring Officer Adv. Rula Mousa.

Participating in a round table discussion conducted by the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislation, and held on 07/02/2018. The meeting discussed the Decree-Law Amending the Anti-Corruption Law. MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Attending a meeting on Israel's travel-ban policy. Those who are affected by the policy had certain demands, and they were delivered to the UN Secretary General during the meeting, in the presence of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Palestine. MUSAWA, represented by Legal Monitoring Officer Adv. Angham Mansour, attended the meeting, held on 28/02/2018, at the invitation of Hurriyat.



Taking part in a civil society meeting allocated for the issue of referring Judge Izzat Al-Ramini for investigation by the High Judicial Council, following his participation in a workshop that discussed the establishment of coalition for monitoring the judiciary and maintaining its independence. The meeting was held on 14/02/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra. In addition, General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi took part in **a meeting with the Chairperson of the Palestinian Judges Association about the latest developments of the justice system** mentioned above. This meeting was held on 25/02/2018.

Facilitating a lecture on “How to Become a Union Leader?” as part of the training course conducted by MUSAWA for trainee lawyers and recently licensed lawyers. The lecture was given by MUSAWA’s General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Participating in the press conference to announce the results of the Integrity System Scale in Palestine for 2017, held by AMAN on 21/2/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Senior Public Relations & Fundraising Officer Shadha Musallam.

Meeting with German expert on Sharia judiciary and the Personal Status Law, and their conformity with the international laws, held on 28/02/2018. MUSAWA, represented by General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi, presented their role in the community dialogue concerning the Personal Status Draft Law, and the legislation they proposed on the matter at hand.

Participating in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Advocacy Workshop, carried-out on 13/02/2018. MUSAWA, represented by Senior Public Relations & Fundraising Officer Shadha Musallam, attended the briefings about the HCT Advocacy Strategy 2015- 2017 initiatives that were conceptualized, planned, and executed jointly in 2017.

Holding a meeting with judges from the Supreme Court and Magistrate Court to discuss the suitable mechanisms for the reform of the judiciary. Another meeting was held with the Attorney General to address the requirements for the rehabilitation of the justice system, and the role of the Presidential Commission for Judicial Development and Reform in this regard. In the first meeting, held on 26/02/2018, MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi. In the second meeting, held on 01/03/2018, MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi and Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra.

MUSAWA's Partners
2018



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority