



NEWSLETTER

August 2017

MUSAWA Publishes Eye on Justice (20)

MUSAWA announces the publication of [issue no. \(20\) of Eye of Justice](#), where MUSAWA documents the daily performance of the justice system, the complaints MUSAWA receives regarding law-violations, the legal memos through which MUSAWA addresses the relevant authorities to demand the cancellation of anything contradictory to the rule of law, and the authorities' response to these memos.



MUSAWA Signs an MOU with the Law Faculty of Gaza University



On Wednesday 16/08/2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between MUSAWA and the Faculty of Law at Gaza University aimed at developing the education and training of legal professionals in general and law students in particular, both at the academic and practical levels. The MOU will open the door for joint cooperation in the field of legal studies and research through the organization of legal trainings, conferences, workshops and moot courts, with a view to the development of the intellectual, scientific and practical capacities of legal professionals.

MUSAWA Takes Part in the National Team for Achieving Sustainable Development Goal (16)

Since 23/8/2017, MUSAWA has become a member of the national team for identifying the role Palestine will have in achieving SDG (16) of The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Legal Memos

01/08/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Legal Advisor to the President, Minister Hasan Al-Ouri, about MUSAWA's position on the Draft Decree-Law on the Early Retirement of Public Employees for 2017, issued by the President on 22/07/2017.

16/08/2017 – A [memo](#) to the vice-chairman and members of the Bar Council/Gaza concerning the infringement of the rules of conduct of the legal profession.

27/08/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Attorney General/Gaza, Advisor Dia' Al-Din Al-Madhoun, tackling fair trial guarantees.

15/08/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Legal Advisor to Mr. President, Minister Hasan Al-Ouri, regarding the Draft Decree-Law for 2017 on the High Criminal Court, referred for issuance to Mr. President by the Council of Ministers.

17/08/2017 – A [memo](#) to the vice-chairman and members of the Bar Council/Gaza about its performance in defending the integrity of its members and meeting their needs.

27/08/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Attorney General/Gaza, Advisor Dia' Al-Din Al-Madhoun, concerning arbitrary detention.

MUSAWA's Interventions

Throughout August 2017, MUSAWA received 13 legal complaints: the failure to implement a judicial ruling; the termination of an employee's contract after reporting a crime of corruption; the performance of the Bar Association Council/Gaza in defending its members (MUSAWA received a response saying that the Council has referred the complainant to a member of the Council); the violation of the rules of conduct of the legal profession; a grievance against the General Personnel Council; physical assault by a court bench; the adaptation of public and private spaces for persons with special needs; arbitrary detention (MUSAWA received a response from the Public Prosecution Office confirming the release of the addressed detainees); and fair trial guarantees.

22/08/2017 – A [memo](#) to the head of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Mr. Rafiq Al-Natsheh, regarding the failure to implement a judicial ruling in violation of the Basic Law, Judicial Authority Law, and Anti-Corruption Law.

20/08/2017 – A memo to the head of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Mr. Rafiq Al-Natsheh, about the termination of an employment contract after the employee reported a corruption crime. On 24/08/2017, MUSAWA and the employee (informant) sent an official letter to Mr. Rafiq asking for a guarantee of protection for the informant and witness, as per Articles (18/2) and (19/2) of the Anti-Corruption 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 these rights, MUSAWA, in cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), offered legal consultations for marginalized groups both in the West Bank (Ein Al-Sultan camp, Al-Azzeh camp, Jenin camp, Aqbet Jaber camp, and Ayda camp)

and the Gaza Strip (Khuza'a, Al-Daraj, Deir Al-Balah, Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, and Al-Bassa). The said consultations were preceded by an introduction to what a legal consultation really is, and then advice was given on matters that mainly have to do with the Labour Law, inheritance, Personal Status Law, Penal Procedure Law, land ownership, and other topics from the legal field.

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

MUSAWA and Ambassadors of Peace Sign MOU

On 23/08/2017, MUSAWA welcomed two members of the Ambassadors of Peace in its office in Gaza. The Ambassadors of Peace is a group of young



volunteers who work towards the enhancement of the role of culture, media, charity work and law within the Palestinian community. MUSAWA expressed their deep interest in the activities and future goals of the group, and praised their efforts. Stressing the vitality of the role that the Palestinian youth plays in light of the bitter reality in the Gaza Strip, MUSAWA confirmed their willingness to support the groups through signing an MOU with the Ambassadors of Peace to host their activities relevant to the basic rights MUSAWA encompasses among its goals and objectives: the right to access to justice, the right to equality before the law and the judiciary and the right to fair trial guarantees.

Field Visits to the Pillars of Justice

In cooperation with Adv. Sameh Al-Safi, a volunteer at MUSAWA's Gaza office, Legal Monitoring Officer Adv. Rula Mousa conducted a series of field visits to the pillars of justice in Gaza throughout the month of August 2017, including Khan Yunis courts complex; Gaza courts complex, Gaza Sharia Court, and Deir Al-Balah's police station.

These visits come as part of MUSAWA's oversight role in monitoring law-violations and promoting the rule of law.

Representatives of CSOs Demand an End to the Serious Deterioration in Human Rights Situation

On Wednesday 09/08/2017, MUSAWA participated in a consultation round bringing together representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), NGOs, trade unions and political parties. The participants convened on an urgent call from Al-Haq organization, which was followed by a second meeting, held on 16/08/2017 at the Palestinian Agricultural Development Association (PARC), to consult on the unusual increase in the issuance of legislation and the violation of basic rights and freedoms. The participants agreed that this serious deterioration is a grave violation of the rights and public freedoms guaranteed by the international convention to which the State of Palestine has acceded, and of the relevant Palestinian legislation as well.



More details can be found [here](#).

MUSAWA and ICHR Conduct Awareness Meeting on How to Promote the Role of Lawyers and Media Professionals in Monitoring Human Rights Violations



MUSAWA and the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) organized an awareness meeting for a number of lawyers and media professionals, titled "Promoting the Role of Lawyers and Media Professionals in Monitoring the Human Rights Violations". The meeting took place on 17/08/2017 at the ICHR office in Gaza. A total of 27 lawyers and media professionals attended the meeting, including 10 women.

The meeting aimed at enhancing the role lawyers and media figures play in the protection of human rights, adding to their skills in monitoring and documenting right-violations, and providing them with the necessary knowledge to fulfill their duty in maintaining human rights. Also, reference was made to the important role of the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network (PHRDs) in defending the rights of HRDs, including lawyers and media professionals.

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 \(5\) 06/08/2017](#) – *Juveniles and women in the Labour Law*. Guest: Adv. Nael Al-Houh, the Vice-Chairman of the Bar Association, the head of Al-Huriyyat committee in the Bar Council, and the Legal Advisor to the Federation of Trade Unions.

[Episode \(6\) 21/08/2017](#) – *Alimony fund: legal text vs. actual implementation*. Guest: Adv. Maysam Samoudi, a regular and Sharia lawyer and an expert in alimony fund matters.

[Episode \(7\) 28/08/2017](#) – *The law on the implementation of judicial rulings; civil and Sharia*. Guest: Adv. Mohammad Sakf Al-Hait.

TV & Radio Interviews

Represented by its Legal and Technical Adviser Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, MUSAWA participated in a [radio interview](#) to talk about the Draft Decree-Law Amending the Constitutional Court Law. The interview was aired through Alam-Hebron radio station on 19/08/2017. Mr. Barghouthi also participated in a [radio interview](#) on 22/08/2017 to address the amendment of the Judicial Authority Law. On the same date, Mr. Barghouthi pointed out MUSAWA position on the same matter through [Wattan TV](#). This is in addition to a number of other interviews through the radio and/or television regarding the decree-law on media; the situation of the judicial authority; the situation of the judicial authority and the position of the executive authority in this regard; and [the Palestinian constitution draft](#).

Advocate Mohammad Al-Hattab, a member of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), took part in a [radio episode](#), as part of a radio program on Sawt Al-Azhar radio station, to shed light on the groups and their most important activities and accomplishments.

Other Activities

Holding a meeting with Hemaya Center for Human Rights in Gaza



On 08/08/2017, two representatives of the Hemaya Center for Human Rights: Mr. Yasser Al-Dirawi the Legal Unit Manager and Ms. Amal Al-Basyouni the Public Relations Manager, visited MUSAWA's Gaza Office to discuss possible opportunities for joint cooperation in the implementation of different activities. During the meeting, it was stressed that joint collaboration between MUSAWA and the rest of CSOs and Palestinian universities is of paramount importance, as it contributes to the promotion and protection of the rule of law, in addition to raising legal awareness among the members of the Palestinian community in general and legal professionals in particular.

Welcoming a delegation from the Palestinian Legislative Council

On 01/08/2017, MUSAWA welcomed a delegation from the PLC to discuss the mechanisms for possible future cooperation in serving the rule of law and human rights.

Taking part in the meetings of the Civic Coalition for Legislative Control

Representing the Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO), MUSAWA participated in a meeting held on 03/08/2017 by the aforementioned Coalition, which was allocated for a discussion on the Decree-Law on Cybercrimes and the reform of the justice system. This meeting was followed by a number of other meetings that included political and community leaders from the PLO.

Meeting a delegation from Al-Quds Open University

A delegation from Al-Quds Open University visited MUSAWA on 08/08/2017 to talk about a legal conference they are planning to hold, particularly the paper MUSAWA will present as a speaker in the said conference, which reflects its views regarding the Draft Decree-Law on Cybercrimes.

Participating in the meeting of the national campaign for increasing minimum wage

Represented by its Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Ruba Bakeer, MUSAWA took part in a meeting held on 29/08/2017 in Ramallah by the national campaign calling for the increase of minimum wages in Palestine. The meeting discussed the key challenges as well as achievements of the campaign in the past period, in addition to addressing the proposed plan and the possible future action of the campaign, and discussing the establishment of a secretariat for the campaign.

[حملة نعم لتطبيق الحد الأدنى للأجور. نعم للأجر المتساوي للعمل المتساوي](#)

[#حملة_الحد_الأدنى_للأجور_و_الأجر_المتساوي_للعمل_المتساوي](#)



Meeting with the Attorney General

MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Advisor, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, convened with the Attorney General on 13/08/2017 to look into the Decree-Law on Cybercrimes and to discuss possible mechanisms for reforming the justice system.



MUSAWA's Partners
2017



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority