



NEWSLETTER

March 2018

MUSAWA a Member of the Executive Board of the Civic Coalition for Judicial Reform and Protection

Wednesday, March 14th 2018 – Representatives of several Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) concerned with judicial affairs, law faculties, and trade unions gathered at the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) in Ramallah and Gaza City via video conference, where they announced the official launch of the Civic Coalition for Judicial Reform and Protection and chose a leadership framework for the coalition. The meeting was attended by representatives of 45 NGOs, unions, coalitions, university colleges, and independent actors, all of whom were considered the founding body of the Coalition, and MUSAWA was nominated for the membership of the Coalition's Executive Board. The first meeting of the Executive Board was held on 27/03/2018, where a committee was established to approve the main framework and the overall action plan. In both meetings, MUSAWA was represented by Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra. More details [here](#).

MUSAWA to Form Coalition for the Protection of Child Dignity

On 22/03/2018, MUSAWA held an extended community workshop in Gaza, titled: "Sexual Assaults on Children: Let's Take Responsibility". During the workshop, seven papers were presented, tackling the reasons behind sexual assault incidents on children and the related consequences, and the actions to be taken at the national level, reaching at a society free of sexual abuse and any violation of children's rights in Palestine. More details [here](#).



In order to prevent the sexual abuse of children in Gaza from turning into a widespread social phenomenon, MUSAWA required duty-bearers to assume their responsibilities by initiating the [Coalition for the Protection of Child Dignity](#). To date, about 100 people, including 10 active Palestinian CSOs, have joined the Coalition.



Training in Cooperation with Military Justice Commission: “Military Court Proceedings through Mock Trial”

In cooperation with the Military Justice Commission, MUSAWA conducted a training course titled “Military Court Proceedings through Mock Trials”. Twenty-one law students (including thirteen women) from Birzeit University, Al-Quds University, and the Modern University College, as well as three trainee lawyers and recently licensed lawyers, took part in the three-day training, held in March 2018. More details [here](#).

MUSAWA Conducts Workshops on Women’s Rights

In celebration of women, in appreciation of their efforts, and in support for their struggles, especially Palestinian women, MUSAWA conducted [six workshops](#) on women’s rights during the month of March. The workshops were carried-out in Kufr Ni’ma, Ein Areek, Tulqarm camp, Aqbet Jabr camp, Khawla Bint Al-Azwar School, and the Spanish Secondary School. Two-hundred and thirty three participants, including two-hundred and fifteen women/girls, took part in the workshops, all of which were facilitated by members of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA).



MUSAWA Signs MOUs with Palestinian Grassroots Organizations

Seeking cooperation for the implementation of joint activities and strengthening its relations with other parties with a view to exchanging expertise in various fields, MUSAWA signed two Memos of Understanding (MoU) with the Brilliant Tomorrow Society in Khuza’a/ Khan-Yunis, and with the Palestinian Child Club in Kufr Ni’ma.

MUSAWA Meets with Attorney General on Initiative to Unify and Rebuild the Justice System

MUSAWA’s General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, along with Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra, met with the Attorney General to discuss [MUSAWA’s initiative for the unification and rebuilding of the justice system](#), and to address a number of complaints MUSAWA had received before the visit, including a complaint against a governor who failed to implement a court ruling to release a detainee upon Governor’s orders, which the Attorney General responded to and the release order was issued later on, and another complaint about the police’s reluctance to deliver a citizen’s complaint to the court, which was also addressed positively.

MUSAWA's Interventions

During March, MUSAWA received eight legal complaints: two complaints revolved around forced referrals to retirement; initiation of an investigation to look into the reasons behind selling the shares of a certain company; denial of the right to proper medical treatment; and four complaints addressing the performance of court officials for a variety of reasons and in different contexts.

MUSAWA referred the retirement-related complaints to the competent parties; MUSAWA offered legal advice regarding the third complaint; and we sent a legal memo in response to the fourth complaint, and another one in response to the complaints against the court officials' performance.

Field Visits to the Pillars of Justice

In cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), MUSAWA carried-out nine field visits to the pillars of justice. The visits included the Regular Court, Military Court, High Court of Justice, and the Corruption Crimes Court in Ramallah. These visits come as part of MUSAWA's role in monitoring law-violations and promoting the rule of law in Palestine.

Legal Memos and Position Papers

14/03/2018 – [memo](#) to the Head of the High Judicial Council about “the failure to maintain fair trial guarantees and meet obligations of public service”, in response to a complaint a citizen lodged at MUSAWA's office. Two weeks later, the High Judicial Council replied, stating that MUSAWA is not the competent party in this regard.

19/03/2018 – [memo](#) to Attorney General, Dr. Ahmad Barrak, about “the findings of judicial inspection and the action taken regarding the Public Prosecution's serious mistake.

27/03/2018 – [memo](#) to three different competent authorities in Gaza, about the unlawful rejection of a kidney transplant application.

07/03/2018 – [position paper](#)/ Gaza under the title: “The Violation of Citizens' Rights Continues: MUSAWA calls for the establishment of an impartial independent committee to investigate the infringement of the citizens' right to peaceful assembly and preventing them from watching a football match”.

27/03/2018 – [memo](#) to Attorney General/Gaza, Adviser Dia' Al-Din Madhoun, about the incident where security forces assaulted Al-Azhar University students on campus. The memo is titled: “the violation of academic freedom is a crime punishable by the 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, as well as building the capacities of young lawyers and law students, MUSAWA along with its volunteers' network conducted awareness workshops and trainings in MUSAWA's Gaza Office about drafting legal contracts, and at Al-Najah National University about the Palestinian Labour Law No. (7) of 2000, in addition to a number of workshops which were conducted in schools and marginalized groups in the West Bank addressing women's rights in particular.



MUSAWA's Board of Directors Meeting

On Wednesday 28/03/2018, MUSAWA's Board members met with the purpose of approving the Annual Administrative and Financial Report for 2017. In addition, the meeting discussed MUSAWA's modified internal policies such as, the Financial & Fundraising Strategy, the Communication & Networking Strategy, and the Social Media Strategy.

Radio Interviews

22/03/2018 - MUSAWA's Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Rula Musa, participated in a radio episode through Gaza FM as part of the morning program "Panorama", where she spoke about [the extended workshop](#) MUSAWA conducted to address sexual assaults on children in Gaza.

28/03/2018 - MUSAWA's Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Rula Musa, [talked through Alray Palestinian Agency](#) about the Coalition for the Protection of Child Dignity, which was established based on the recommendations of the participants in the extended workshop.

Other Activities

Participating in a CSOs meeting about the establishment of a civic truth committee, consisting of members from outside the official justice system, to look into the status of the judiciary. The meeting was held on 07/03/2018 at Al-Haq, where the participants discussed the criteria for establishing the independent community-based committee, as well as defining its responsibilities and period of operation. MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi and Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra.



Participating in the sit-in in front of the Council of Ministers building to denounce the actions taken against public employees, where they were forced to retire early. The protest took place on 20/3/2018. MUSAWA was represented by PR & Fundraising Officer Shadha Musallam, and Legal Monitoring Officer Adv. Angham Mansour.



Taking part in a conference on the political and regional changes and their effect on the Palestinian cause. The conference was organized by Miftah on 06/03/2018 at the Grand Park Hotel in Ramallah. MUSAWA was represented by its General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Contributing to a legal workshop, titled “the requirements of disengagement from the Israeli occupation - political, legal, economic, and security aspects”, at the invitation of the Institute of Law at Birzeit University, on 21/03/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Legal Monitoring Officer Adv. Angham Mansour.

Presenting a paper in the Eighth Conference of the Public Prosecution, which was organized in Bethlehem on 24/03/2018. The conference addressed the ongoing changes in the trends of governance and the Public Prosecution’s role in this regard. The conference also discussed the requirements of a justice system founded on standards of human rights and which meets its obligations in an independent and impartial manner. The paper was presented by MUSAWA’s General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Participating in a workshop on the abolishment of Article (303) of the Penal Code, held by the Women’s Center for Legal Aid and Counselling. The workshop revolved around the vitality of abolishing Article (303) which gives the rapist legal grounds to marry the raped person, and the rapist is exempted from punishment if divorce takes place next, which is all in all discriminatory against women. MUSAWA was represented by Legal Awareness & Training Officer Adv. Shurooq Abu-Qare’.

Giving a speech at the Women’s International Day ceremony organized by Gaza University, Legal Monitoring Officer Adv. Rula Musa gave the speech on 18/03/2018, where she stressed that it cannot be imagined that Palestinian women who have proved their national struggle can enjoy their rights when their homeland is occupied and stolen from them, as their freedom is part of the freedom of their people and part of the freedom of men as well. We cannot speak of liberation in a society where women are being suppressed and are treated unequally.



Taking part in a workshop organized by the Prime Minister’s Office about the first national report of the sustainable development agenda, particularly goals 16 and 11 of the SDGs. The workshop was held on 12/03/2018. MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi and Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra.



Contributing to the national dialogue on Palestine's report about the implementation of the UN treaty on the rights of people with disability, at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 28/03/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Legal Monitoring Officer Adv. Angham Mansour and General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Participating in a workshop with the workers in the financial sector about social security, held on 13/03/2018. The workshop addressed the Social Security Law No. (19) of 2016, given that the law will be put into force in October 2018. MUSAWA was represented by Legal Awareness and Training Officer Adv. Shurooq Abu-Qare'.

Attending the ending ceremony of the Execution of the Security Council Resolution 1325 in the oPt project, held by the General Union of Palestinian Women and the UN Women on 21/03/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Senior PR & Fundraising Officer Shadha Musallam.

Participating in the conference for launching the report on the reality of integrity and anti-corruption 2017, carried out on 26/03/2018. MUSAWA, represented by Legal Monitoring Officer Adv. Angham Mansour, took part in the conference at the invitation of AMAN.

Taking part in Tanmiya Workshop about creating an incubating Palestinian environment for emancipatory education as an alternative educational model, carried-out on 27/03/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Senior PR & Fundraising Officer Shadha Musallam.

Contributing to a workshop about the reality of Palestinian women and the violence practiced against her, held at Hamdi Manko center in Nablus, on 12/03/2018. The participants discussed the vitality of networking with women organizations and continuing to raise awareness on how to eliminate violence against women. MUSAWA was represented by Adv. Yasmeen Yaeesh, a member of the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network (PHRDs).

Participating in a workshop, titled "Torture: the crime and the aftermath", at the invitation of the Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, held on 07/03/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Adv. Odai Suleiman, a member of the PHRDs Network in Jenin.

MUSAWA's Partners
2018



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority