



# NEWSLETTER

August 2016

## MUSAWA Condemns Extralegal Killing of Ahmad Halaweh

On 23/08/2016, MUSAWA issued a memo condemning the extralegal killing of Ahmad Halaweh by members of the Security Services, who beat to death the unarmed detainee while in detention. In its memo, MUSAWA demands that the Public Prosecution conduct a criminal investigation to look into the circumstances of the incident, all of the officials in charge be detained and referred to the judiciary, in addition to forming an independent investigation committee to investigate into the incidents that has recently occurred in Nablus, and other demands.

Read the memo [here](#).

## Palestinian Bar Association and Over 160 Civil Society Organizations Demand Rapid Adoption and Enforcement of Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration



The Palestinian Bar Association and more than 160 civil society organizations demanded the rapid adoption, approval, issuance and enforcement of the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration, through a legal memo sent on 15/08/2016 to the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Legal Adviser to Mr. President.

Read the memo [here](#).

## MUSAWA's Observers on Local Elections

210 observers under the name of MUSAWA (70 West Bank, 140 Gaza) were approved as observers for the upcoming local elections. Since the selection period for the observers ends at the beginning of October, the number is still subject to an increase as it only includes those who were approved until 01/09/2016.

## Raising Awareness amongst Marginalized Groups

### The Right to Vote and to Be Elected



A workshop under the title “The Right to Vote and to Be Elected” was conducted by MUSAWA and the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders (hereinafter PHRDs) Network. The workshop was held on 13/08/2016 in Nablus, and it was attended by 18 young males from the village. *More details [here](#).* A similar workshop was carried-out on 30/08/2016 in Tulqarm at the headquarters of the

General Union of Palestinian Women. 18 women attended the workshop. *More details [here](#).*

### MUSAWA’s Interventions

Throughout August, MUSAWA received two legal complaints. The first complaint addressed obstructing the implementation of a court ruling, while the second complaint was about extralegal detention. Both complaints were handled by giving the complainants legal advice.

### National Committee to look into the Case of Palestine’s Judiciary

Initiated by the Institute for Development Studies in Gaza, national and Islamic factions chose a technical national committee to look into the case of Palestine’s judiciary, and to submit a proposal for putting an end to the division in the justice system and unifying the judicial authority. The committee includes MUSAWA’s Technical and Legal Adviser, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi, as one of its members. Mr. Barghouthi participated in the committee’s first meeting, held on 23/08/2016 at Birzeit University’s Institute of Law.

### Local Elections and Democracy



On 16/08/2016, MUSAWA and the PHRDs Network carried-out a workshop on “Local Elections and Democracy” at MUSAWA’s Gaza Office. 14 members of the Network’s monitoring group attended the workshop, along with other legal figures. *More details [here](#).*

In the same context, on 25/08/2016, lawyer Ahmad Hamad, a member of the PHRDs Network, participated in a [radio interview](#) through Nisaa FM to discuss the workshop.

## Legal Memos:

### The Right of Female Employee to Accompany her Diplomat Husband

On 10/08/2016, MUSAWA sent a [legal memo](#) to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Riyad Al-Malki, regarding a complaint submitted by Adviser Bassam Al-Qawasmi, who is a diplomat in the Embassy of Palestine in Tunis, demanding the assignment of his wife as his escort and continuing the payment of her salaries.

### A Breach of the Local Elections Law

MUSAWA sent a memo to the Central Elections Commission on 31/08/2016, demanding that the necessary legal action be taken regarding the breach of the Local Elections Law, so as to ensure that the candidates are not influenced and that their rights are not violated. *Read the memo [here](#).*

## Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network: Monthly Meetings in West Bank and Gaza



Throughout August, eight meetings in eight different areas (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 102 members from the Network (39 females and 63 males).

## Legal Encounters on Palestinian Labor Law No. (7) Of 2000

MUSAWA and the PHRDs Network held 4 legal encounters in cooperation with the faculty of law at Al-Azhar University in Gaza. While the first three encounters included a theoretical as well as practical elaboration of the provisions of the Palestinian Labor Law No. (7) For 2000, the fourth encounter was allocated for a moot court on a labor dispute. The 4 encounters were held in the faculty of law at Al-Azhar University in Gaza, targeting 22 students, 8 of which were females.

In the same context, Mr. Mohammad Salameh, a member of the PHRDs Network, participated on 18/08/2016 in a [radio interview](#) aired on Nisaa FM to speak about the aforementioned encounters.



## Second Central Meeting for Coordinators of Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network in West Bank and Gaza

The second central meeting for the PHRDs Network's coordinators was held by MUSAWA, in cooperation with the Network, for the purpose of reviewing its rules of procedure, enhancing participation and democracy in the work in order to activate the role of the PHRDs Network and contribute to its goals, and agreeing on a mechanism for the Network's members to carry-out activities in the upcoming period. The meeting was held at MUSAWA's Ramallah Office (and Gaza's office through video conference), and was attended by 14 members, 8 of whom were females.



### Radio Interviews

#### Interview with the PHRDs' Media and Public Relations Coordinator

Journalist Alaa' Bani-Fadel, the Media and Public Relations Coordinator of the PHRDs Network in Nablus and Salfit, was interviewed on 08/08/2016 through Tareek Al-Mahabbah Radio-Nablus. In [the interview](#), Ms. Alaa' spoke about the role the Network intends to play in the upcoming elections, and she pointed-out that the Network will be conducting a number of activities to raise awareness about the elections of local councils and municipalities.

#### Interview with the PHRDs' General Coordinator

On 15/08/2016, the radio show "Dawaween Al-Balad", presented by Haneen Ayesh on Mawwal Radio, interviewed the Coordinator of MUSAWA's project to empower Palestinian human rights defenders, who is also the General Coordinator of the PHRDs Network, Mr. Hamdi Hussein, to speak about the idea behind the project and the goals of the Network. *The interview can be found [here](#).*

## MUSAWA's Monitoring Staff Receives Training in Court-Monitoring Mechanisms

On Tuesday 02/08/2016, MUSAWA's legal staff, both in the West Bank and Gaza, and a number of members in the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA) received a training on the mechanisms for monitoring courts. Mainly, the training aimed at building the capacities of the attendees regarding monitoring, documenting and keeping track of the violation that might take place in courts, and sharing what they have learned with the rest of the members as well as other lawyers by training them themselves. This training comes within the framework of the UNDP-supported project to develop the mechanisms of monitoring the performance of the justice system.

## MUSAWA Conducts Trainings in Court-Monitoring and Receiving Complaints



In August, MUSAWA conducted 7 trainings in the West Bank and Gaza as part of the UNDP-supported training program for monitoring the courts and receiving complaints. The main purpose of the trainings was to strengthen the capacities of the participants in relation to the monitoring process and the mechanisms for receiving and following-up complaints. The participants included a number of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA) and other lawyers; a total of 125 participants, 43 of whom were females.

## Other Activities

### MUSAWA Participates in a Meeting about Draft Law on Major Crimes Courts

On 17/08/2016, MUSAWA's Technical and Legal Adviser, Lawyer Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated in a meeting, held at the headquarters of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Ramallah, to discuss the perspective of the Civic Coalition for the control of the legislative process concerning the draft law on major crimes courts. During the meeting, it was decided that a letter will be sent to the government regarding the coalition's opposition to the approval and issuance of the aforementioned draft law and its demands.

### Presenting a Paper on the Elections

MUSAWA's Technical and Legal Adviser presented a paper on the elections as an introduction to accountability and enabling citizens of claiming their constitutional rights of choosing their representatives. The presentation came as a part of a workshop held on 18/08/2016 at the headquarters of Ramallah's Agricultural Relief, in the presence of representatives of several civil society organizations.

MUSAWA's Partners  
2016



The Netherlands  
Representative Office to  
the Palestinian Authority



European Union



United Nations  
Development Programme