



NEWSLETTER

April 2018

MUSAWA Releases Justice and Law (32)

MUSAWA announces the publishing of [issue no. \(32\) of "Justice and Law"](#); a journal which contains academically assessed legal studies and research, aimed at identifying the weaknesses of the existing Palestinian legislation or administrative policies in order to induce decision-makers to enact legislative amendments and rectify administrative imbalances. The magazine also contains comments on the final rulings issued by the Palestinian courts.

More details [here](#).

MUSAWA Launches Advocacy Campaign for the Unification of the Judiciary

In cooperation with the Palestinian Press House in Gaza, MUSAWA launched a lobbying and advocacy campaign through social networking platforms to unify and rebuild



the judiciary and pressure decision-makers to adopt a national vision to assess all operators in the justice system. A number of volunteers participated in the

campaign, entitled "MUSAWA's Initiative for the Unification and Rebuilding of the Justice System" ([#مبادرة_مساهمة](#)), which started the beginning of the year and included the launch of the hashtag [#توحيد_القضاء](#) on 18/4/2018 via Twitter.

The number of impressions (hashtag views, tweets, and content) reached more than 3 million, with more than 204,000 users, and the number of tweets exceeded 2000.

MUSAWA Monitors Bar Elections and Final Bar Exam

MUSAWA was invited by the Central Elections Commission for the Bar Association elections for its 2018/2021 session, held on 05/04/2018, to observe and monitor the Bar Council elections. MUSAWA welcomed the invitation and sent a monitoring team of 21 lawyers from the northern and southern governorates. MUSAWA issued a [detailed report](#) in this regard.

MUSAWA also took part in the invigilation of the bar finals for the session of April 2018, held on 29/04/2018 at Birzeit University. MUSAWA's monitoring team was present in almost all of the examination rooms. A monitoring report will be issued in the first week of May 2018.

Safa' Al-Harazin, Kidney-Failure Patient, Snatches Back her Life after MUSAWA Sent Memo to Gaza Attorney General, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health

Following MUSAWA's appeal to the official authorities in Gaza to take the appropriate legal action to ensure the right of complainant Safa' Harazin to treatment and life, asking to enable the



complainant of completing the procedures for her kidney transplant operation as soon as possible, the Ministry of Health responds to MUSAWA's request to allow her husband to donate his kidney regardless of the period of their marriage contract, and to remove the obstacles and illegal conditions set-out in their regulations. It is worth mentioning that on 12/03/2018, MUSAWA received a complaint from the complainant, who suffers from kidney failure, stating that her husband Amir Barash is willing to donate his kidney

to her, and the medical examinations (medical report attached to the complaint) proved the match between her husband and herself, and thus all conditions necessary to complete the process of donation and save the complainant's life were met. Nevertheless, the High Commission for Organ Transplantation rejected her application based on the said regulations. (More details on the complaint and the memo [here](#).)

MUSAWA Participates in the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network held in Iraq



Represented by General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, MUSAWA took part in the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network, held in the period of 15-16/04/2018 in Baghdad-Iraq. [Adv. Barghouthi contributed to the discussion](#) on the subject of the conference, which held the title of "Combatting Corruption to Protect the Security of Humans and the Community". (A [radio interview](#) on the conference).

MUSAWA's General Assembly Meeting

MUSAWA approved its annual financial and administrative report in its regular annual meeting, held on Saturday 28/04/2018, which will then be duly presented to the official authorities concerned. The report features MUSAWA's key achievements in the year of 2017 as well as the challenges MUSAWA has confronted and still does. Furthermore, MUSAWA's General Assembly discussed the vitality of improving MUSAWA's tools in light of the current political situation, particularly that some tools has been found inefficient in confronting the monopoly practiced by the executive authority.



MUSAWA's Interventions

During December, MUSAWA received 12 complaints: 1) objection to the ruling of a first-degree-court judge; 2) violation of the code of ethics and the lawyer's rights; 3) deprivation of liberty and education; 4) the police unlawfully taking a complainant's daughter who is under her custody and giving her to her uncle; 5) unlawful detention upon governor's orders; 6) illegal imprisonment; 7) violation of residence sanctity and abuse of power; 8) privatization of government mail; 9) torture and violation of the right to treatment, and failure to abide by job duties; 10) obstruction of the enforcement of sharia judicial rulings; 11) the right to health insurance as stipulated in the Persons with Disabilities Law; and 12) a collective complaint about the right to education, and reducing the quality of education for students.

MUSAWA referred the first complaint to the competent authority; two legal memos were sent out in response to the second and third complaints; legal consultation was provided regarding the fourth complaint, and it was referred to the competent authority; the fifth complainant was given legal advice; three legal memo were sent out in response to the sixth, seventh, and eight complaints; and the rest of the complaint are still under follow-up.

Legal Memos

19/04/2018 – [memo](#) to the Sharia Judicial Inspection Committee, titled "Violating Code of Ethics, and Lawyer's Rights".

19/04/2018 – [memo](#) to Attorney General Dr. Ahmad Barrak, titled "second reminder of our request to the Public Prosecution to state the actions taken regarding the serious professional mistake made by the Public Prosecution, as clearly established by the Court of Cessation".

23/04/2018 – [memo](#) to Attorney General Dr. Ahmad Barrak, titled "Deprivation of Liberty and the Right to Education". A copy was sent to the Minister of Higher Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

25/04/2018 – [memo](#) to Attorney General, Daa' Al-Din Madhoun/Gaza; Comptroller General, Brigadier Mohammad Lafi/Gaza; and Inspector General of the Police, Brigadier Aa'ed Hamada/Gaza, titled "Violating Sanctity of Residence & Abuse of Power".

25/04/2018 – [memo](#) to President of Higher Sharia Court, Sheikh Hasan Al-Joujou/Gaza; His Excellency Attorney General, Daa' Al-Din Madhoun/Gaza; His Excellency Head of the High Judicial Council, Advisor Abdul Raouf Al-Halabi/Gaza; His Excellency Secretary-General of the Legislative Council, Nafeth Madhoun/Gaza; Chairman of Sharia Bar Association, Ayman Abu-Eisheh/Gaza, addressing illegal detention, unlawful penalties, abuse of power, charging unlawful fees, and separation of powers.

29/04/2018 – [memo](#) to His Excellency Attorney General, Daa' Al-Din Madhoun/Gaza; Inspector General of Police, Brigadier Aa'ed Hamada/Gaza; Director of the relevant police station; and Lieutenant Colonel/Gaza, titled "Alleged Torture & Deprivation of the Right to Medical Care".

Position Papers

03/04/2018 – Community-based action bringing together the forcibly retired employees and Civil Society Organizations ([letter to the President](#)).

24/04/2018 – [MUSAWA & over 100 CSOs demand that Public Officials in Gaza be paid.](#)

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, including the regular court, military court, and the High Court of Justice in Ramallah. These visits come as part of MUSAWA's work as a watchdog organization which monitors law-violations and promotes the rule of law.



MUSAWA's Staff Receive Training in How to Integrate Persons with Disabilities into the Work Force

As part of integrating the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) into MUSAWA's work and policies, MUSAWA organized a training for its staff in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the concept of disability, and the means for integrating persons with disabilities into the work force and public life. The training was given by the YMCA, as part of a program to promote inclusive employment for persons with disabilities. At the end of the training, MUSAWA expressed and stressed their desire and willingness to welcome inclusive employment, in line with the experiences and qualifications required for a certain job. MUSAWA has already adapted its premises to suit persons with hearing disabilities, and has initiated procedures to adapt them to their physical needs. MUSAWA has also signed Memoranda of Understanding with grassroots organizations concerned with the rights of persons with disabilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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 in the West Bank (Jaba' school, Al-Quds Open University-Tulqarm, Kuft Ni'ma school, and Dheisheh refugee camp) and the Gaza Strip (Al-Shati camp, Khuza'a, Khan-Yunis, and Jabalia camp). During the workshops, legal advice was given mainly on matters related to Child Rights, the Palestinian Labour Law No. (7) of 2000, women's Sharia rights, the protection of juveniles, inheritance rights, the Personal Status Law, and women's access to justice.





MUSAWA Launches Booklet of Eighth Palestine Justice Conference: “Where is the Justice System Heading in Light of Reconciliation?”

MUSAWA announces the release of the booklet of the Eighth Palestine Justice Conference, held in Dec. 2017. The booklet contains the papers presented in the conference, as well as the recommendations given by the participants. It also contains MUSAWA’s initiative for the rebuilding and unification of the justice system, which resulted from discussions in the conference. Copies of the book are available at our offices in Ramallah & Gaza.

TV & Radio Interviews

- 04/04/2018 – [radio interview](#) about the legal clinic workshops MUSAWA conducts in the Palestinian governorates (Legal Awareness & Training Officer Shurooq Abu-Qare’ / Nisaa FM).
- 06/04/2018 – [radio interview](#) about the Bar Council elections (General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi / Alam-Hebron).
- 18/04/2018 – [radio interview](#) about using sorcery for the purpose of extortion (General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi / Alam-Hebron).
- 18/04/2018 – [radio interview](#) about the Draft Decree-Law Amending the Cybercrime Law (General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi / Ajyal FM).
- 21/04/2018 – [TV interview](#) about the Draft Decree-Law Amending the Cybercrime Law (General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi / Watan TV).

Other Activities

Participating in the meeting of the committee of the executive board of the Civic Coalition for Judicial Reform and Protection, on 02/04/2018, for reviewing the bylaws of the Coalition. MUSAWA was represented by Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra.

Participating in the press conference on launching the 23rd ICHR annual report for 2017, on 25/04/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Legal Monitoring Officer Adv. Angham Mansour.

Contributing to the CSOs’ meeting with the coordination committee of the forcibly retired employees, where a [position paper](#) was issued on 03/04/2018 to demand that the decisions of forced retirement be rescinded. MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Taking part in a workshop: “Combating Violence and Torture”, at the invitation of the Treatment and rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, on 05/04/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Adv. Odai Suleiman, a member of the Palestinian Human Rights’ Defenders Network in Jenin.



Participating in a meeting on Ramallah Convention, held on 10/04/2018. Represented by Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra and Finance Manager Marina Qaqish. MUSAWA contributed to the discussion by pointing out the vitality of supporting the rebuilding and development of the judiciary and the justice system as a whole, in an attempt to encourage Palestinian expatriates to invest in Palestine.

Meeting with representatives of Hebron University about a draft decree-law on higher education, where they expressed their legal observations in this regard. The meeting was held at MUSAWA's office on 05/04/2018. MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Meeting with the Attorney General to look into the developments of the justice system and give remarks on the performance of the Public Prosecution, in addition to addressing some complaints that were filed to MUSAWA, and which have to do with the Public Prosecution. The meeting took place with MUSAWA's General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Signing a cooperation agreement with the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics for the Legal Monitor survey, issued by MUSAWA every two years. MUSAWA had signed a cooperation agreement with SAWASYA for the same purpose. MUSAWA was represented by General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.



Participating in a dialogue session with Facebook representatives on the policies of the dissemination of Palestinian content. The session was organized by 7amleh-The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media center for the development of social media, on 30/4/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra.

Taking part in the conference: "The Quest for Climate and Environmental Justice in Palestine: National Laws and International Parameters", held at Birzeit University on 04/04/2018. MUSAWA was represented by Legal Awareness & Training Officer Shurooq Abu-Qare' and PR & Fundraising Officer Shadha Musallam.

MUSAWA's
Partners
2018



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority