



# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

## Legal Memo Regarding Presidential Decree to Establish Supreme Constitutional Court

On 17/05/2016, MUSAWA sent a memo explaining its stance regarding the Presidential decree to establish a Supreme Constitutional Court, and calling political parties and community forces to join the two memos that were sent by civil society coalitions and legal institutions to Mr. President asking him to withdraw his decision and wait until all of the necessary legal, constitutional, and political requirements to establish the court are ready.

Read the whole memo [here](#).

## Electing Coordinators for the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network in West Bank and Gaza

The first elections bringing together the West Bank and Gaza were held to elect coordinators from the PHRDs Network; eight general coordinators and another eight for the Public Relations and Media committee, who will be leading the Network in the West Bank and Gaza.



These elections represent a first-of-its-kind initiative by Civil Society Organizations and civil institutions in Palestine, and they came as a part of a general meeting held by MUSAWA for the PHRDs Network at the Caesar

Hotel-Ramallah and Adam Hotel-Gaza (via video conference). The attendees included the Chairman of the Palestinian Bar Association, representatives of the Independent Commission for Human Rights and Palestinian NGOs Network, and over 135 male and female members of the PHRDs Network. *More details can be found [here](#).*

## Death Penalty Law in Gaza

On 22/05/2016, Radio Mawwal interviewed lawyer Mohammad Rabee', a member of the PHRDs Network, in "Dawaween AL-Balad" show to speak about death sentences in Gaza. Throughout the episode, differences between death penalty laws implemented in Gaza and West Bank were discussed, in addition to stressing the intensive efforts by human rights organizations that are concerned about defending human rights, including MUSAWA, to change these laws. *The full episode can be found [here](#).*

## Raising Awareness amongst Marginalized Groups

### The Rights of Marriage

A workshop about the rights of marriage was held by MUSAWA in cooperation with the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders (herein after PHRDs) Network and Raedat Al Mustaqbal Organization. The workshop was conducted on 08/05/2016 in Khan Yunis, targeting 20 female participants. *Read more [here](#).*

### MUSAWA's Interventions

Three legal complaints were submitted at MUSAWA: the lack of legal follow-up by the Public Prosecution regarding a criminal complaint; an inmate in Jericho's Correction and Rehabilitation Center demanding to be released since two-thirds of his sentence has passed; and the Palestinian General Intelligence summoned and interrogated a complainant, who is a lawyer, following a case to which he was assigned.

MUSAWA addressed the first two complaints by giving legal advice, while the third complaint is still under follow-up.

### The First Network in Palestine to Empower Human Rights Defenders

Coordinator of the Empowering PHRDs project, was received as a guest on 31/05/2016 in the show "Allah Ysabbihkom Bil Khair", broadcasted over Al-Falastiniyah TV, to speak about the project and its goals, in addition to the mechanisms used by PHRDs Network's members in monitoring rights violations against human rights defenders in Palestine. *Find the full interview [here](#).*

### The Legality of Publishing Investigation Work

On 31/05/2016, lawyer Rula Musa, Legal Monitoring Officer at MUSAWA, took part in a radio episode of the show "Law is Life", aired on Al-Shaab radio station, in which she talked about how legal it is to make investigation work available for the public.

### The Right to a Safe Environment, Free from the Remnants of Military Occupation



Tubas's Tayaseer Seconday School for Boys hosted a number of members from the PHRDs Network to raise awareness among students regarding their right to a safe environment, free from the remnants of occupation.

The workshop was organized by MUSAWA in cooperation with the school and the Palestinian Police in Tubas, targeting 25 students. *Read more [here](#).*

### Legal Memo: Publishing Crime Reports or Recordings

On 31/05/2016, MUSAWA sent a written memo to Public Prosecutor/ Ismail Jabr and Chairman of Gaza's Supreme Judicial Council/ Judge Abdul-Raouf Halabi, demanding that the necessary legal action be taken regarding publishing crime reports or recordings in which the commission of the crime is acted on social media channels, bearing in mind that the memo was submitted on 01/06/2016.

(Currently, the [memo](#) is available only in Arabic).

### Legal Memo: Stopping death sentences in Gaza

On 31/05/2016, MUSAWA sent a written memo to Public Prosecutor/ Ismail Jabr, Acting Head of the PLC/ Dr.Ahmad Bahar, Former Prime Minister/ Dr. Ismail Haniyeh, and Chairman of Gaza's Supreme Judicial Council/ Judge Abdul-Raouf Halabi, demanding the stopping of death sentences against a number of defendants in Gaza.

(Currently, the [memo](#) is available only in Arabic).



### Introducing the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups -friends of MUSAWA-

In an effort to update and develop the performance of Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups, MUSAWA held two meetings to introduce the groups. The first meeting was conducted in Ramallah on 28/05/2016 for members from Ramallah, Jerusalem, Tulkarm, Jenin, Nablus, and Jericho, while the second meeting was held in Hebron on

30/05/2016 for members from Hebron and Bethlehem. Mainly, the attendees discussed the working plan and communication methods.

### International Unionists visit MUSAWA

Wanting to know more about the PHRDs Network and MUSAWA, an international delegation of unionists from Solidaire - France and CGT - Spain; trade unions that regulate workers of the local government sector, municipalities, higher education, communications sector, and postal sector, came to visit MUSAWA on 02/05/2016. During the visit, Palestine's legal status was identified in general, and ways of mutual cooperation were discussed.



## Participation in UNDP's Regional Meeting: "Politically Smart Rule of Law Programming"

MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, lawyer Ibrahim Barghouthi, took part in a regional meeting for the UNDP, which was held in Amman-Jordan on 03/05/2016. Mr. Barghouthi's participation came as part of the meeting's second session, which tackled the issue of Judicial Reform, Independence and Oversight in light of corruption, political sterility and institutional paralysis. Throughout the session, he discussed ways to address lack of political will and institutional paralysis in the context of complex situation, protracted conflicts and occupation. He also spoke about ways to address challenges in terms of stalled judicial reform and independence.

### The Post of Assistant Prosecutor

MUSAWA, represented by its Legal and Technical Adviser Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated in a radio episode aired on Radio Alam-Hebron on 14/05/2016 regarding the government's decision to transfer legal professionals from ministries and governmental departments to work as Assistant Public Prosecutors. Find the full episode [here](#).

### Empowering Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Project

Coordinator of the Empowering PHRDs project, participated in a radio interview on 24/05/2016 in "Sabahiyyat Besan" show, aired on Besan Radio. Mr. Hussein spoke about the network which was established at the initiative of MUSAWA, its goals, and achievements. The full episode can be found [here](#).

### Suicide and its Effects on Society

On 03/05/2016, lawyer Abdul-Fattah Jaradah, a member of the PHRDs Network and the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups -friends of MUSAWA-, was received as a guest in the radio show "Citizens and the Law", broadcasted over Watan Radio, to discuss the crime of committing suicide and the consequences this crime brings to society as a whole. The full episode can be found [here](#).

### Assaults against Lawyers and Judges

MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser participated in Radio Alam-Hebron's episode on 22/05/2016 regarding several physical assaults against a number of lawyers and judges. Throughout the episode, there was a discussion on the reasons that lead to such assaults and the effect they leave on the image of the Palestinian judiciary. Find the full episode [here](#).



## Other Activities

### Attending the Palestinian Postal Service Workers' Union Conference



The Empowering PHRDs project, represented by its coordinator Hamdi Hussein, participated in a conference for the Palestinian Postal Service Workers' Union, held in Jericho on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, under the title "Social dialogue as an entry point to achieve the demands of workers in the postal sector". Participants included unionists and NGO representatives, and the conference involved a presentation on the PHRDs Network and its vision and relationship with unions and institutions. Moreover,

Mr. Hussein spoke about the legal clinic, monitoring group, Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration of Rights and the coalition that was established to put pressure for the sake of approving the Declaration.

### Participating in an EU Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

Representatives of MUSAWA from both the West Bank and Gaza attended a workshop done by the EU over three consecutive days. The first day was basically a kick-off meeting in which the coordinator of the Empowering PHRDs project was given the chance to give a presentation to introduce the PHRDs Network, while the second and third days involved a training on Monitoring and Evaluation.

MUSAWA's Partners  
2016



Netherlands  
Representative Office in  
the Palestinian Territories



European Union



United Nations  
Development Programme