



NEWSLETTER

December 2017

MUSAWA Releases Two New Issues of Justice and Law Journal

"Justice and Law" is 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.

Here are the latest two issues of the Justice and Law Journal:

- [Special Issue No. 30](#)
- [Issue No. 31](#)

MUSAWA Holds Eighth Palestine Justice Conference: "Where is the Justice System Heading in Light of Reconciliation?"

Wednesday 13-12-2017 – Ramallah and Gaza: MUSAWA, supported by Sawasya, the UNDP/UN Women/UNICEF Joint Programme 'Promoting the Rule of Law in the State of Palestine' (2014-2018), held the eighth annual Palestinian justice conference. The conference took place at the halls of the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Al-Bireh and Gaza via videoconference.

The conference, titled **"Where is the Justice System Heading in Light of the Reconciliation?"** aimed at shedding light on the key challenges to the reform and unification of the justice sector in the context of reconciliation.



Twelve papers were presented by an array of local and international experts. At the end of the conference, the floor was open for discussion and recommendations... more details [here](#).

MUSAWA and Law Faculty at Al-Azhar University Sign Memo of Understanding



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between MUSAWA and the Faculty of Law at Al-Azhar University, where both parties agreed on collaborating in the implementation of a variety of legal activities, including but not limited to scientific and legal research, legal training, and mock trials.

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

Legal Memo

17/12/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Attorney General in Gaza, Dia' Al-Madhoun, regarding the violation of the rule of law and overstepping authorities.

MUSAWA's Interventions

During December, MUSAWA received four legal complaints: 1) the expropriation of a piece of land; 2) seeking legal aid; (3) violating the rule of law and overstepping authorities; 4) failure to implement a court ruling.

MUSAWA responded to the first complaint by giving legal advice; the second complaint was referred to the competent authority; a legal memo was sent regarding the third complaint; and the fourth complaint is under follow-up.

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 in the West bank and Gaza. The visits were conducted throughout the month of December 2017, and they included Deir Al-Balah's Magistrate Court, Khan Yunis' Court, Gaza's Court, Ramallah's Magistrate Court and Court of First Instance, and Jericho's Magistrate Court.

It is worth saying that the aforementioned visits come as part of MUSAWA's work as a watchdog organization which monitors law-violations and promotes the rule of law in Palestine.

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 them, MUSAWA, in cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), offered legal consultations for marginalized groups in the West Bank (Tulqarm refugee camp) and the Gaza Strip (Gaza governorate, Al-Shati camp, and Beit Lahia). The said consultations were preceded by an introduction to legal consultations, and then legal advice was given mainly on matters related to violence against women, the Palestinian disability law, and the universal declaration of human rights and human rights defenders.



MUSAWA Holds Internal Training on Anti-Corruption in the Workplace

Building the capacities of its executive staff and General Assembly (GA) members, MUSAWA organized a staff training on 18/12/2017, with the participation of the Chairman of MUSAWA's Board of Directors (BoD), its Treasurer, and a GA and BoD member. MUSAWA's team in Bethlehem and Gaza were connected via Skype.

The training addressed the main principles of anti-corruption, and it was facilitated by MUSAWA's Financial Manager Marina Qaqish, who used a variety of references.

The training was then followed by two sessions to discuss MUSAWA's strengths and weaknesses, and to propose some changes to MUSAWA's performance at the programs level. More details [here](#).



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 radio station (106.8 FM), hosted by the journalist Ala' Bani-Fadel, in partnership with MUSAWA and the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network (PHRDs).

[Episode \(18\) 04/12/2017](#) – *Insurance: law, reality, and ambition*. Guest: Adv. Mousa Al-Sayyad, a former lecturer on insurance law at Birzeit University.

[Episode \(19\) 11/12/2017](#) – *Rent in the eyes of the law*. Guest: Adv. Ikhlas Assi, a lawyer and lecturer at the Modern University College.

[Episode \(20\) 18/12/2017](#) – *Ownership of property from a legal perspective*. Guest: Adv. Maryam Salah, an attorney from Nablus.



TV & Radio Interviews

MUSAWA took part in a number of interviews to talk about the Eighth Palestine Justice Conference, held on 13/12/2017 under the title of “Where is the Justice System Heading in Light of Reconciliation?” The interviews were as follows:

- 14/12/2017 – MUSAWA’s Legal Monitoring Officer/ Gaza, Rula Mousa, participated in a [radio interview](#) through Angham FM to talk about the conference prior to its implementation.
- 14/12/2017 – MUSAWA’s Executive Manager, Ahlam Tarayra, participated in a [radio interview](#) through Ajyal FM to talk about the conference prior to its implementation.
- 16/12/2017 – MUSAWA’s Executive Manager, Ahlam Tarayra, appeared on Alfalstiniah TV to reflect on the conference after its implementation. Click [here](#) to watch the interview.

MUSAWA’s General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated on 11/12/2017 in a [TV interview](#) on Al-Quds Educational Channel to talk about the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Bill of Rights, and the Eighth Palestinian Justice Conference.

Other Activities

Meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, held on 05/12/2017. MUSAWA was represented by General Manager Ibrahim Barghouthi, who handed the Special Rapporteur a copy of the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration (PHRDD) and the bylaws manual of the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders’ Network (PHRDs). MUSAWA asked him to push for the endorsement of the PHRDD by the decision-makers.

Participating in the conference “Towards an Inclusive Environment”, which was held on 06/12/2017 in collaboration between the Teacher Creativity Center and the Palestinian General Union for People with Disability. Legal Monitoring Officer Adv. Angham Mansour represented MUSAWA in the said conference.

Taking part in a round-table-discussion about the legal environment of the Palestinian civil society: realities and priorities, which was conducted by the council for coordinating civil action, on 26/12/2017. The discussion aimed at reviewing the latest developments in the legal environment of Palestinian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and addressing recent government efforts to improve the application of the charities and community organizations law. MUSAWA was represented by General Assembly member, Adv. Ghassan Masad.

Participating in PNGO’s meeting, held on 21/12/2017, to explore possible means for activating and strengthening the role of CSOs in the Palestinian public affairs, and supporting the city of Jerusalem and its institutions. MUSAWA was represented by Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra.



Contributing to a discussion on the establishment of a committee for the follow-up on complaints and suggestions regarding the work of courts in the Gaza Strip, held on 28/12/2017. MUSAWA's volunteer, Adv. Mohammad Al-Loh, took part in the said discussion at the invitation of the Institute for Development Studies.

Taking part in a workshop for reviewing human rights violations monitored by the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) and exploring possible means of cooperation with CSOs. The workshop was held on 20/12/2017, and several suggestions were given during the workshop regarding the collaboration of human rights organizations in monitoring and addressing violations, each within their scope of work. MUSAWA was represented by Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayra.

Attending the Second International Conference on Activating Safeguards and Mechanisms for Protection against Torture in Palestine, held on 12/12/2017. MUSAWA was represented by a number of volunteers in MUSAWA's Gaza office, along with Receptionist/ Administrative & Financial Assistant Nadine Al-Jaish.

Participating in the meeting of the National Committee for Defending Freedoms, held at the headquarters of PNGO on 24/12/2017. The meeting looked into the actions that should be taken by the civil society towards the ratification of the Amended Decree-Law on Cybercrime, knowing that most of the demands which were raised by CSOs and the ICHR. In this regard, the convened parties agreed to send a letter to the President, titled ["Stop the legislation violating Palestinian human rights, in support of the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the face of the escalation by the occupying power and the ominous US decision on Jerusalem"](#). It was agreed that this meeting will be followed by an extended meeting bringing together all representatives of Palestinian civil society to discuss mechanisms to address violations of public freedoms in all its forms.

MUSAWA's Partners
2017



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority