

**MUSAWA – The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the
Judiciary and the Legal Profession**



Annual Report 2017

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The Variable and Fixed in the External Environment to MUSAWA

The year 2017 witnessed an increasing tendency towards a totalitarian security system, and the tendency of duty-bearers towards monopoly and hegemony at the various levels of government, disregarding the importance of collective action and genuine partnership with the rights-holders. The government's monopoly has been manifested in the increasing issuance of legislation in the form of presidential decrees which introduce new legislation, or amends/cancels already existing legislation, turning a blind eye to the provisions of Article (43) of the Basic Law. The pace of issuing legislation has increased so significantly that the government's weekly agenda does not go by without making reference to having intentions of initiating internal discussions on new legislation to be published as a decree-law. The same situation applies to the powerful actors in the Gaza Strip, mainly the members of the Legislative Council there.

In this context, it is noteworthy that the decree-laws are issued in violation of the principle of separation of powers, and they indicate the deepened interference of the executive authority in the judiciary, which is manifested in the fact that under these laws bodies are being created and granted powers without taking into account the constitutional principles, and the international agreements and conventions to which the State of Palestine has acceded. Examples of the said decree-laws include the Decree-Law Amending the Constitutional Court Law, the Decree-Law on the High Criminal Court, the Cybercrime Decree-Law, the Decree-Law on the Judicial Body of the Palestinian Security Forces, the Tenant-Landlord Draft Decree-Law, the Decree-Law on Early Retirement, and the news of a draft decree-law amending the Judicial Authority Law, which is being initiated by the executive authority without raising it for community discussion, as well as using the same exact tools which had been adopted previously by the successive governments in an attempt to overcome the crisis of the justice system. In addition, the executive authority has established the joint security committee and it has granted it powers to carry out unlawful detentions inconsistent with the verdicts rendered by the competent courts. The number of cases of detention/arrest upon the commands of governors and the Prime Minister has become greater. Not to mention the growing tendency of the executive authority and the security forces towards the excessive use of force and violence in dispersing peaceful assemblies and demonstrations, as well as in arresting and detaining social actors such as media persons, lawyers, and activists for expressing their views on a certain issue. The number of cases committed for trial and which deal with accusations related to the freedom of expression on social media platforms has built up as well, while turning a deaf ear to the wide-ranging calls for endorsing the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration (PHRDD) as a legal frame of reference. In the same context, five laws were issued in Gaza, which are the Penal Magistrate Law no. 1 of 2017, law no.2 of 2017 on the amendment of the Consumer Protection Law no. 21 of 2005, law no. 3 of 2017 amending the law of the governmental Administrative Committee no. 4 of 2016, the law on amending some of the provisions of the ownership of floors, apartments and shops law no. 1 of 1996, and the law on the prohibition of encroachment of land and public property of the state and public legal persons; in addition to the draft of the law on the High Criminal Court, which is essentially similar to the decree-law on the High Criminal Court issued in the West Bank.

All of this was accompanied by a justice system that remained divided, where neither part recognizes the other or even values their decisions and legislation, which led to the deepening of the existing gap between the two parties to the extent that it has become more of a social dichotomy rather than a

political division. The judiciary, in turn, has seen a serious drop in the trust litigants have towards it, and it has witnessed some sort of “mating” with the executive authority, clearly demonstrated by its decisions, policies, and procedures. There is no better evidence of this than the High Judicial Council’s state of silence and its abandonment of its responsibilities, manifested in the Cybercrime Decree-Law and the Decree-Law on the High Criminal Court, whose establishment was initiated by the High Judicial Council even prior to the issuance of the relevant decree-law. Moreover, controversy grew over the unlawful appointment of the Head of the High Judicial Council as well as his deputy’s. The gap has widened within the Supreme Court, and disagreements have expanded within the High Judicial Council itself as well as with the Palestinian Judges Association. In addition, verdicts in administrative disputes responded fully to the vision of the executive authority, and the security services stepped up their violation of human rights to the point where a lawyer was arrested from within the courtroom. In conjunction with all this, the Legislative Council is not active yet, and the public is still unaware of the legislation which affects their interests, and which they know of only when published in the Palestinian official gazette.

On the other hand, this year witnessed social movements calling for accountability, demonstrated in the formation of several community coalitions and the organization of peaceful popular protests, including demonstrations for professionals, lawyers, and law professors in front of the Council of Ministers and the court buildings. This is in addition to the issuance of several position papers, legal memos, and joint policy papers in partnership with several Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who tried to make use of every opportunity available to raise their voices and call for serious steps towards a pluralistic civil State, where the principle of separation of powers prevails, general elections are held, and a radical reform of the justice system is achieved. Here, reference must be made to the establishment of the Supreme Constitutional Court, the Decree-Law Amending the Constitutional Court Law, and the government transferring personnel from its departments to the Public Prosecution or the judiciary. These transfers went too far that they reached the extent where a deputy-minister working at a partisan institution was transferred to work in the judiciary and was granted administrative powers, which was manifested in his appointment as Adviser to the Head of the High Judicial Council/Chief Justice.

As an expression of the executive authority’s fixation to the policy of exclusion and the distribution of powers among those who hold positions of responsibility in the justice system while disregarding the obligations and requirements of the genuine reform of the justice system, the President issued two decrees ordering the formation of two official committees, the first of which was allocated for the so-called development of the justice sector and the judiciary in the West Bank, while the second committee carried the title of “a committee to assess the status of the justice sector in the southern governorates (i.e. Gaza Strip)”. Despite the fact that the term of office of the first committee had expired, it ended up arranging a Draft Decree-Law Amending the Judicial Authority Law which promotes the subordination of the judiciary to the executive authority. Despite the wide scope of community demand for a radical reform of the justice system, and the calls for its reunification on legal and professional grounds which conform with the international treaties and conventions, the executive authority has not yet addressed the demands of the CSOs calling for the formation of an independent community committee to assess the performance of all those who hold a title or function in the justice system. The CSOs demanded that the said assessment be based on scientific, impartial, and transparent criteria, leading to final solutions for the structural crisis of the justice system,

including the Constitutional Court, the regular judiciary, family courts, and the Public Prosecution office, and that it contribute to a professional, impartial, and competent judiciary which is capable of accomplishing an equal imposition of the rule of law.

Given the difficult political realities of the Palestinian cause; the failure of ongoing attempts to complete the reconciliation; the serious social, economic, and health crises of the Gaza Strip; and the rates of unemployment and frustration experienced by the youth in the West Bank, the external environment seems to be more complex than ever, which requires a genuine change in the policies and tools adopted by MUSAWA and the CSOs to prevent the ongoing deterioration on the one hand and to contribute to the survival and security of the Palestinian people. This can be accomplished by providing effective solutions to enhance community-civil-governmental cooperation to break the deadlock; changing the discourse of “calling for, demanding, etc.” into one that holds those who are responsible accountable; establishing various coalitions; adopting tools of popular pressure and promoting the human rights culture proposed in the relevant international treaties, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; raising legal awareness amongst community members and introducing them to their rights, in addition to offering them advice and working together towards the realization and legitimate protection of these rights; paying special attention to the Palestinian cities and camps (other than Ramallah), as well as to the marginalized groups of youth and women; the optimal use of the media; and expanding cooperation by building networks with grass-root organizations and broadening the circle of supporters of MUSAWA’s initiative, which is the product of the Eight Palestine Justice Conference held in December 2017.

Accomplishments

Outcome 1: Enhanced Equality before the Law and the Judiciary

Output 1.1: New legislation and/or amendments and/or cancellation, and/or laws and bylaws of existing or proposed articles that contradict with Article 7 of the Universal declaration of human rights.

Since it was established, MUSAWA has focused on conducting holistic and systematic reviews of Palestinian laws, legislations and policies relating to justice sector and rule of law, making sure that they are responding to Palestinian needs and are in line with international human rights standards. These include legislative areas related to the Justice System, Human Rights and Good Governance, as indicated above.

With the absence of the Legislative Council, and through its monitoring role, MUSAWA recognizes that the pace of issuing decree-laws is rising continuously. In addition to having these decree-laws not adhering to the “urgent need” rule, they also entail several violations, including violations of the Palestinian Basic Law, violations of the right and freedoms in Palestine, as well as violations of the International conventions Palestine has acceded to.

During 2017, MUSAWA handled six decree-laws by issuing its views in the form of legal memos, position papers and statements; addressed to the official authorities. These views clarified the reasons behind the need to adjust or cancel the issuance of these decree-laws, in addition to the proposed adjustments as seen by MUSAWA and the partner organizations to ensure its consistency with the international treaties. Although MUSAWA sought to strengthen the unified effort with civil society organizations in the context of reviewing legislation issued by the executive authority, these efforts and the essence of the observations provided in the joint position papers were ignored by the decision makers.

With regards to the National Report of the State of Palestine on the measures taken by the State to harmonize the Palestinian legislation with the international treaties it had signed, MUSAWA participated in the consultation meetings held by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Palestine, and subsequently at the meetings held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Decree-laws of 2017 and MUSAWA’s interventions in their regard:

1. Decree-Law on High Criminal Court

The Draft Decree-Law on the High Criminal Court, which was first referred by the Council of Ministers to the President for issuance on 13/12/2017, has stirred reactions among many legal figures and competent Civil Society Organizations (hereinafter CSOs). The CSOs concluded that

the decree-law, which was referred to the President without giving CSOs the opportunity to express their thoughts on the matter or listening to their comments, involves inconsistencies with the Constitution and prejudices the basic rights and freedoms of citizens.

During 2017, MUSAWA first addressed a legal memo to the President, requesting being granted time to review the then draft decree-law, and followed it with publishing a position paper regarding the same matter. In cooperation with other CSO in the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process, MUSAWA participated in publishing two other legal memos on the issue, proceeding from MUSAWA's belief that collective action is a means of exercising pressure on decision makers. However, though the decree-law was at first set aside, and was not issued, it was later ratified by the President on 30/12/2017, and was published in the Palestinian official Gazette on 08/01/2018.

2. Decree-Law No. (16) for 2017 on Cybercrimes

A great concern was expressed regarding the Decree-Law on Cybercrimes from the first moment it was referred by the Council of Ministers to the President for approval, on 25/06/2017, without consulting with CSOs or asking them for their opinion, followed by the issuance and publishing of the decree-law in the Palestinian official gazette on 09/07/2017.

The CSOs which are members of the joint committee for the review of the Decree-Law on Cybercrimes, including MUSAWA, sent a legal memo to Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Head of the PLO Department of Culture and Information, regarding this issue. The memo included both general reasons, in addition to the specific reasons for rejecting the decree-law. The general reasons for rejection included the use of ambiguous, general and unspecified terms in indictments, putting personal privacy at risk, blocking electronic sites, the severity of punishments, the lack of any text that provides general protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the unjustified expansion in the range of indictments. The specific reasons for rejection were based on the various articles of the decree-law, explaining its detailed observations on each of its articles.

3. Draft decree-law for 2017 on the early retirement of public employees

MUSAWA published a legal memo expressing its position on the draft decree-law for 2017, issued by the President in Ramallah on 22/07/2017. In this memo, MUSAWA demanded that the appropriate legal action be taken regarding the observations expressed in the legal memo, in such a way as to nullify the negative impact of the decree-law before it is published in the Official Gazette and enforced. Despite the fact that MUSAWA's remarks dealt with many of the issues related to the decree-law, such as that "referring the employee to early retirement by a government decision without asking the employee, and at any time the government sees as appropriate, introduces new special provisions extending the powers of the government...", and that defining the period of validity of the decree-law with a time limit of six months, [which]

possibly marks the decree-law with an administrative nature, and removes it from the circle of the legislation that is founded on a general rule and becomes valid for a long period of time, and it is repealed or amended based on the results of its enforcement.

4. Draft Decree-Law on the Judicial Body of the Palestinian Security Forces No. () of 2017

MUSAWA issued and published a legal memo, addressed to the Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah, which MUSAWA sees that it violates the provisions of Article (101/2) of the Palestinian Basic Law, and demanded to “reconsider the texts related to [the topics mentioned in the memo] to ensure that the jurisdiction of military courts is limited to military-related matters away from one’s job title; civil and criminal disputes, where one of the parties is a civilian or which are committed by a militant as a citizen and due to his relations with other civilians, no longer fall within the military courts’ scope of work; and no longer considering the civil police as one of the groups that should abide by the provisions of this draft-law. All of this should be stated clearly and evidently. This is in addition to considering the classification of an offence as the basis of the military courts’ jurisdiction, and subjecting the judgments pronounced by the military court of appeal to the supervision of the court of cassation.”

5. Draft decree-law amending the Judicial Authority Law

In response to a letter MUSAWA received from the Minister of Justice, which asks MUSAWA to give their opinion on the aforementioned draft, MUSAWA issued a legal memo addressed to the Prime Minister, which explains MUSAWA’s views on the decree-law, and requests its abolishment and removal from the government’s agenda, based on the provisions of paragraph 4 of article (71), of the Basic Law which states that “each Minister shall exercise the power to propose bills and legislation within their respective ministry and to present them to the Council of Ministers, which in turn shall have the right to transmit draft laws to the Legislative Council, as stipulated in Article (70) of the same law. This means that the Council of Ministers or the Minister shall not propose bills outside the executive scope. The role of the Council of Ministers is limited to mere proposition and not approving or taking legislative action.” The draft decree-law has been set aside, and no known further action towards its issuance has been made during 2017.

6. Draft Decree-Law Amending Supreme Constitutional Court Law

MUSAWA demanded the dropping of the draft decree-law amending the supreme constitutional court law in a legal memo that was addressed to the Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, clarifying the risks involved with the issuance of the decree-law. The demand was based on the fact that “the bill was proposed by the Constitutional Court itself, which overrides the principles and rules of legislative competence, separation of powers, good governance, and

the widely recognized legal norms,” in addition to several other notes included in the memo regarding the draft decree-law and the reasons behind preparing it.

Eighth Palestine Justice Conference

As part of its oversight role on the performance of the pillars of justice in Palestine, MUSAWA organized and conducted its annual international conference on 13 December 2017, supported by Sawasya, the UNDP/UN Women/UNICEF Joint Programme ‘Promoting the Rule of Law in the State of Palestine’ (2014-2018). The conference, which was entitled "The Eighth Palestine Justice Conference: Where is the Justice System Heading in Light of the Reconciliation?", aimed at identifying gaps related to international treaties in Palestinian legislation and its implementation, based on international best practices, as well as ways of unifying, rebuilding and developing the justice system. The conference was held over a full day through video conference between Ramallah and Gaza, with the participation of regional and international experts. Twelve papers were presented by experts representing international and local organizations over the span of three sessions. The fourth session was devoted to discussion and recommendations from the participants, whose total number reached 386, including 83 participants from the northern governorates (West Bank) and 303 participants from the southern governorates (Gaza Strip). It should be noted that translation into Sign Language was provided for the very first time at the conference, thus encouraging a number of the concerned institutions and persons with hearing impairments to attend and participate in the discussion, where Sign Language speakers shared their views and thoughts during the conference. In addition, the conference was held at the Palestinian Red Crescent halls Society in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which premises and facilities are accessible for people with disabilities. This gave an opportunity for people with physical disabilities to attend and participate in the discussion, where important notes regarding the harmonization of local legislation with the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities signed by the State of Palestine were included in the discussion.

The first session was under the title “Towards building a professional and impartial Palestinian justice system,” where the presented 4 papers discussed the appropriate environment for optimal judicial performance, the independence of the judiciary and reviewing judicial decisions: an introduction to social accountability, the independence of the judiciary and the appointments of judges: the Tunisian experience after the revolution, and the reform and unification of the justice system in light of the reconciliation: mechanism, tools, and requirements. The second session, titled “Towards a genuine Palestinian commitment to the incorporation of international human rights conventions into the national legislation”, also included 4 papers that discussed revisiting the role of the executive authority as stipulated in the legislation regulating the justice system; the supreme constitutional court in light of the

reconciliation: legislation, formation, and impact; the variation between national legislation and international treaties, and the mechanisms for integrating or harmonizing them; and the United Nations mechanisms to follow-up on the states' fulfillment of their obligations to implement the international human rights conventions they ratified. In the third session, entitled "Good governance and the rule of law are the indicators of successful reconciliation", presented 4 other papers that discussed the effective legal mechanisms and procedures to meet obligations of enforcing judicial rulings in light of reconciliation; mechanisms and effects of dealing with the legislation issued during the division in light of reconciliation; guarantees to standing against human rights violations in light of reconciliation; and reconciliation and transitional justice system: principles and lessons learned for the Palestinian reconciliation process.

MUSAWA's Facebook page broadcasted live videos covering the whole event. In addition, Palestine Live TV aired about 18 minutes of the conference on live TV and its Facebook page, with more than 4599 views on the Facebook page. The conference received media coverage from Ajyal Radio Network and Dunia Al-Wattan electronic newspaper, and a number of satellite channels and radio stations operating in the main cities; before and during the conference, and after the adjournment of its meetings.

The following **recommendations** were supported by the majority of participants:

1. The importance of having any initiative to unify and reform the judiciary be based on adherence to the principle of separation of powers and good governance.
2. The importance to recognize the judicial function as a societal right and that the message of the judiciary is the provision of justice, which is a noble public-spirited mission.
3. To work towards ending the political division that has the main negative influence on the justice system, which must not be influenced by political attractions.
4. To provide a political will that prohibits, prevents and questions all interference in the work of judges, as this has negative impact on the proper neutral application of the provisions of the law.
5. The need to unify the judiciary on professional grounds, and under a single and impartial judicial authority.
6. The need to improve the facilities of the justice system, especially the buildings, and to provide all possible tools and logistics for the optimum judicial performance.
7. To develop the capacity of judges through the adoption of a continuous training program that is not limited to new judges.
8. The need to provide social security to judges and to protect their rights.
9. The necessity of realizing judicial accountability for its important role in maintaining the independence of the justice system and combating all aspects of corruption, if any.

10. To take legislative and administrative measures that ensure the establishment of a two-tier administrative judiciary and a multiplicity of bodies of the Supreme Court of Justice.
11. The implementation of transitional justice as a way out to deal with judicial decisions and provide compensation for victims.
12. The necessity of respecting the criteria for occupying the judicial function away from political allegiances, nepotism and favoritism.
13. The need for including community participation in the reform of the justice system.
14. The need for holding general elections and protecting a democratic system of government that provides the appropriate political environment for reform.
15. The need to conduct a professional, objective and serious methodical evaluation of all those working in the justice system to ensure the process of unification and reform.
16. The need to adopt new methods and solutions instead of continuing to rely on traditional means of reform.
17. Forming an independent national committee of persons known to be impartial in order to unify and reform the justice system, with setting a time limit for the completion of its tasks.
18. The importance of reducing the retirement age of judges and prosecutors to the age of 60.
19. The need to solve the problem of reference for the Public Prosecution.
20. The dissolution of the Supreme Constitutional Court, which was established under the division, and the revision of its law and forming it in a way that serves ending the division and strengthening unity.
21. Providing all administrative and logistical needs to ensure that people with special needs and the marginalized groups have access to justice, and ensure their right to social and functional integration.
22. Accessing to the rule of law and not subjecting judicial function to party consensus.
23. Integrating international treaties in national legislation to protect human rights and promote the independence of the judiciary and judges.
24. Prepare a community initiative aimed at breaking out of division and ensuring judicial unity and integrity.
25. Holding a special conference on transitional justice.

MUSAWA reviewed the recommendations and the papers presented at the conference and prepared an initiative to unify and rebuild the justice system based on the discussions, dialogues and papers presented at the conference and its recommendations. MUSAWA then submitted the initiative to all official and parliamentary bodies, the Bar Association and civil society organizations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and started the implementation of an advocacy campaign aimed at holding the duty bearers and decision makers to deal positively with the initiative and put into practice, and is determined to continue its role alongside all competent official and private bodies to achieve the message and results of the Conference.

The conference book will be published in 2018, including all the papers presented at the conference, in addition to MUSAWA's initiative to reform and rebuild the justice system, which resulted from the discussion and recommendations at the conference. The recommendations pointed to the fact that the performance of the Palestinian justice system continuous to deteriorate, and to the importance of joining all efforts to counter this deterioration and to unify the justice system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an important step towards achieving the reconciliation.

In fact, and apart from the joint position of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) against issuing legislation by the executive authority in the absence of a functioning Legislative Council, MUSAWA has played a significant role in pointing out the faults of the decree-laws and draft decree-laws to which other organisations did not pay attention. This certainly is due to MUSAWA's long experience in the justice sector and in reviewing and drafting relevant legislation or drafts of legislation respectively. Pointing out the loopholes indeed helped addressing the serious issues with the legislation and the legislative process and the implications on the right to equality before the law and the judiciary, especially for the less privileged citizens. Consequently, MUSAWA's announced position against these loopholes have been reflected in the position of other organizations announced afterwards, and have been also reflected in papers presented in the Eight Palestine Justice Conference by representatives of Palestinian organizations.

Output 1.2: Legislative and implementation processes are monitored and documented

MUSAWA has been monitoring all newly announced legislation through the formal governmental gazette, as well as holding regular communications and following up on a regular basis on all decisions announced by the Council of Ministers and the President office. In addition, MUSAWA maintained channels of communication with the Council of Ministers, the Office of the President, the Public Prosecution and the High Judicial Council to be kept abreast of the draft decree-laws or ministerial decisions before they are submitted to the President for ratification or before they are published in the Official Gazette. Accordingly, MUSAWA has had the opportunity to study these drafts, comment on them, announce its observations and address the decision-makers not to issue them because they are draft legislation issued by parties that are not authorized to issue them in the absence of the Legislative Council, and because they do not meet the requirement of "unavoidable necessity" and involve violations of the Palestinian Basic Law and international treaties signed by the State of Palestine. This was thoroughly handled under Output 1.1.

An internal committee, constituted of the legal monitoring officers in both the West Bank and Gaza, MUSAWA's General Manager, and legal experts from the Board of Directors and the General Assembly, analyzes new legislation and decisions to ensure that they correspond to the Palestinian Basic Law and the international treaties Palestine has acceded to. MUSAWA utilizes the presence of legal experts in the Board of Directors and the General Assembly for this purpose. In addition, and since MUSAWA is

committed to its mission and specialization, it closely cooperates with other organizations in Palestine to ensure that new drafts are of the highest standards, and to avoid overlap. Several legal memos, position papers and statements have been published throughout the year, addressing issues found as a result of the process of monitoring and documenting the legislative process. MUSAWA has consistently cooperated with CSOs, particularly members of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process to produce unified position papers. Output 1.1 presents the decree-laws that were discussed during 2017, to which legal memos and position papers were issued either by MUSAWA individually, or by the Coalition.

MUSAWA followed up the international treaties and covenants signed by the State of Palestine in 2017 in the field of human rights, namely the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

MUSAWA held and participated in several workshops and roundtable discussions throughout the year to discuss legislation, with officials working in the justice system, partner organizations, and lawyers; including the meetings of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process. The sessions discussed several topics, including the decree-law on the High Criminal Court, the Draft Decree-Law on Landlords and Tenants (2017), Decree Law amending the Code of Criminal Procedure, the decree-law on cybercrimes, and the presidential decree on the formation of the Judicial Development Committee, the unusual increase in the issuance of legislation and the violation of basic rights and freedoms; in addition to meetings with the Attorney General in the West Bank to discuss the decree-law on cybercrimes and the possible mechanisms for reforming the justice system; the Secretary of MUSAWA's Board of Directors meeting with Attorney General in the West Bank to discuss the Draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court; and the meeting between the Attorney General in Gaza and MUSAWA's staff and General Assembly's member.

In the same context, MUSAWA participated in the Public Prosecution's Seventh Annual Conference, where the General Manager presented a position paper on the deteriorating situation of the justice sector and how to escape it, in addition to the Public Prosecution's role when speaking of interrogation and detention, its identity and independence.

Throughout the year, MUSAWA published a total of 41 legal memos, and received responses to 11 of them, in addition to 8 position papers and 4 statements. The legal memos dealt with a number of issues related to local legislation, which were referred to in output 1.1, and issues related to the complaints received by MUSAWA, which will be dealt with in output 2.3, in addition to miscellaneous issues, such as Such as infringing the physical integrity of citizens, excessive use of power, issuing circulars and administrative decisions contrary to the rule of law, assaulting the independence and rights of the judge, violation of the rule of law, destroying cultural heritage, the formation of bodies and granting them powers contrary to the law (relating to bypassing the Joint Security Committee to the limits of

its powers), terminating an employee's contract for reporting corruption cases, adapting public and private spaces for persons with special needs, and investigating the kidnapping of Lawyer Mohammad Husein and overstepping the authority of Nablus Magistrate Court, in addition to legal memos regarding the issuance of the Palestinian gazette contrary to the law, and the cancellation of March 8th International Women's Day Holiday in Gaza.

The position papers also dealt with local legislation, as well as the demand for equality in occupying public functions, the demands for establishing an impartial committee to investigate the death incidents of Gaza's detention centers, the demands for the dissolution of the Joint Security Committee, and the demand to stop destroying cultural heritage.

MUSAWA issued 4 statements during 2017, which were as follows: The first statement, issued by a number of CSOs under the title "Defending the Rule of Law and Freedom of Opinion and Expression", dealt with the referral of a judge in the Supreme Court and a member in the High Judicial Council, Judge Abdullah Ghazlan, for investigation after a decision was issued by the Vice-President of the Supreme Court/Deputy Head of the High Judicial Council, which came due to the views which Judge has published regarding matters of administrative judicial concern. The second statement demanded the abolition of death penalties to abolish the death penalty and stop its implementation, and provide all fair trial guarantees, including the accused's right to defense and that it be replaced with some other penalty regulated by the Palestinian Penal Code in force. The third statement clarified MUSAWA's vision on the reform of the justice system "The Judiciary, Constitutional Court, and Public Prosecution", while the fourth statement, which was addressed to the President, requested the cessation of legislation that violate human rights of the Palestinian citizens.

MUSAWA received feedback from related authorities on some of the position papers. For example, the attorney general in Gaza maintained a response mechanism where official letters addressed to MUSAWA of the action made or the inputs of the public prosecution on the issue in question. It is worth mentioning that following a position paper on the death incidents of Gaza's detention centers, MUSAWA received a letter explaining the investigation made, and afterwards a letter regarding a new similar incident was received immediately at MUSAWA to highlight the fact the public prosecution is following the incident and investigating if any human rights violations were committed, even before MUSAWA took any action. This clearly underlines the impact of the role MUSAWA plays as a watchdog organization on the justice system in Palestine, although it is a relative impact depending on the justice institutions on which these position papers are shedding light.

MUSAWA's Monitoring Role over Local Elections

As an independent non-governmental monitoring body over general as well as local elections, MUSAWA took part in an encounter which brought together the Head of the Central Elections

Commission (CEC) and representatives of CSOs. The meeting was held to discuss in particular the prospects of conducting the local elections, in addition to addressing the findings of the Head of the CEC's visit to Gaza and the political difficulties to holding elections in it. The attendees also shed light on the CSOs' role in this regard.

Due to MUSAWA's professional reports and feedback on previous elections, it was approved as an official observer of the local elections. Lawyers, media figures, and unionists from all over the West Bank sent applications to MUSAWA requesting to be authorized as official observers in the elections. The applicants also included members of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups, the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network (PHRDs), and a number of MUSAWA's Ramallah team. A total of 103 observers were distributed over the West Bank's electoral areas. Additionally, MUSAWA had conducted a workshop to train MUSAWA's observers on monitoring the local elections.

Later, MUSAWA participated in a meeting to assess the CSOs' monitoring of the local elections process (lessons learnt), at the invitation of SHAMS organization. MUSAWA also participated in the "Conference on the Palestinian Local Council Elections: Analytical Perspectives of Achievements and Challenges," at the invitation of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

In fact, MUSAWA is considered as an impartial and professional monitoring body that it is being invited to observe elections and exams such as those carried out by the Palestinian Bar Association on a regular basis.

Output 1.3: Promoted legal awareness to marginalized groups

Training Programs

During the first quarter of the year, and as part of the UNDP project, MUSAWA conducted four three-day training courses to people in the marginalized groups. The courses, which took place in Nablus, Bethlehem, North Gaza and Khan Younis, focused on the constitutional rights: political, civil, social, economic and cultural. A total number of 170 direct beneficiaries attended the courses, 99 of which were women.

Through these training programs, MUSAWA realized that the participants in the marginalized areas prefer to attend awareness raising workshops that are accompanied by legal counseling sessions, where the workshops do not last for more than one continuous day, and not more than two hours per day, due to considerations related to the nature of their lives and the conditions of their areas. The trainings has paved the way for a continuous awareness raising program in these areas, where the awareness raising workshops have been integrated into the legal clinic program since mid-2017.

By working with grass-roots organisations in the marginalized areas, MUSAWA aims to strengthen the capacity of these organizations in the fields of raising awareness of the law and the fundamental rights,

and in encouraging the marginalized groups to turn to human rights organizations and official institutions to demand the realization of these rights. The results of this effort were witnessed in the 8th Palestine Justice Conference through people with disabilities attending the conference and discussing their rights-issues and their right to equality before the law and the judiciary, as previously mentioned.

Legal Clinic Program

MUSAWA adopts the Legal Clinic Program to promote legal awareness amongst the marginalized groups. The Legal Clinic Program allows MUSAWA's staff and volunteers to reach people in the marginalized areas, thus offering a better opportunity to spread legal awareness among them. The field visits within this program consist of two parts: an awareness session chosen on a specific legal topic, and legal consultations provided to the people upon their requests. In determining the topics presented in the awareness raising sessions, MUSAWA's team choose topics that fall under MUSAWA's specialty, and that contribute to enabling the marginalized groups access their right to justice and their right to a fair trial, as well as raise awareness on the right to equality before the law and the judiciary. The topics are also chosen taking into consideration the needs of the people in the marginalized areas, and based on their requests to organize more field visits to discuss topics of their choosing.

During 2017, MUSAWA targeted 34 marginalized areas in its Legal Clinic Program; some areas were targeted more than once, with a total number of 55 field visits, 49 of which were associated with awareness raising sessions, discussing 25 different topics, including; but not limited to, inheritance, Labor Law, children rights, Personal Status Law, the decree-law on cybercrimes, and women's rights and the CEDAW convention. An approximate number of 933 direct beneficiaries attended the awareness raising sessions and the legal consultation sessions followed by them.

MUSAWA conducted 49 field visits in 13 of the northern and southern governorates, where it focused on reaching refugee camps and villages in the marginalized areas. MUSAWA could not reach the governorates of Jerusalem, Qalqiliya and Rafah, as it faced difficulties in coordinating access to the marginalized areas in these governorates during 2017, but it aims to work on networking with grassroots organizations in these areas during the year 2018.

MUSAWA's legal team, in cooperation with Lawyers for the Rule of Law groups "Friends of MUSAWA", implemented these mobile legal clinics in coordination with grassroots organizations in the marginalized areas and community and youth groups in these communities, thus contributing to the building of cooperative relations through which MUSAWA contributes in building the capacities of these organizations and groups to ensure the continuous monitoring and documentation of violations of the law and human rights of marginalized groups, as well as the signing of memorandums of understanding for this purpose. A number of these organizations joined MUSAWA by signing position papers it issued in the Gaza Strip, including a memorandum on the violation of cultural heritage and the discrimination against women in occupying public positions.

MUSAWA's interaction with the local communities and grassroots organizations has improved their contributions in the documentation and the reporting of violation of the law and the rights. In fact, some of the issues addressed in the legal memos and the position papers addressed by MUSAWA have been reported or pointed out by the local communities during or after legal clinic activities. Basically, raising awareness on MUSAWA's scope of work encourages people to take part in the monitoring on the human rights and law violations.

[Annex \(1\)](#) clarifies the areas reached by MUSAWA in the awareness raising visits, and the various topics discussed in these sessions.

Media Platforms Appearances

The Radio Program "The Law under Spotlight"

In partnership with the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network, 20 radio episodes were broadcasted in "The Law under Spotlight" radio program, which 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. An episode was broadcasted every week on Hawa Nablus radio station, which covers the northern and central parts of the West Bank, with an average number of 40,000 listeners per day according to the station's own statistics. The episodes were also broadcasted live on the station's website and Facebook page. MUSAWA planned the topics discussed in the episodes, given that the selection of topics was based on the developments within the justice sector, as well as coordinated with the guest speakers and defined the axes of discussion, which dealt with the following topics: The importance of the Basic Law, and the rights and freedoms' relation to international treaties; The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Cybercrimes; The relation between the Bar Association and the judicial police and the Bar's role in protecting public rights and freedoms; Juveniles and women in the Labour Law; Alimony fund: legal text vs. actual implementation; The law on the implementation of judicial rulings; civil and Sharia; The protection of witnesses and informants of corruption crimes; Divorce from a legal perspective; Palestine joining the Interpol; People with disabilities from a legal perspective; Palestine elections in light of the reconciliation; The Judicial Authority Law and job security; The amendments of the decree-law on cybercrime: meeting needs or keeping the crisis?; The legality/illegality of arrest upon the request of the Prime Minister; Violence against women; Determinants of the relationship between the media and the executive authority; Insurance: law, reality, and ambition; Rent in the eyes of the law; and Ownership of property from a legal perspective.

Women speakers were included in the selection of guests, including a teacher of students with hearing impairments, who participated in the episode discussing people with disabilities from a legal perspective.

The discussion topics also addressed the questions of the listeners that were posted in the form of comments on the live video broadcasting on Facebook.

TV and Radio Episodes

MUSAWA's team and voluntary groups participated in 18 TV episodes, and 22 radio interviews. These TV and radio appearances discussed various legal issues and topics, as well as provided a media platform for MUSAWA to share their views and opinions regarding the legal situation in Palestine with the Palestinian public.

The TV and radio interviews discussed various topics, including The important role the PHRDs Network plays in protecting human rights defenders from violations and law infringements, the draft decree-law on landlords and tenants, the position of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the legislative process and MUSAWA's position on the draft decree-law of the High Criminal Court, the status of the Bar Association in the light of the resignations of a number of its Board members, the unification of the Palestinian judiciary in light of reconciliation, The feminist vision of the Palestinian constitution draft, and other topics. A part of these interviews was dedicated to promote MUSAWA's complaints system, with specific focus on how MUSAWA's complaints system meets the needs of persons with disabilities.

In addition, MUSAWA organized and conducted 30 radio episodes, aired on different radio stations in the West Bank and Gaza, aiming at promoting legal awareness among the Palestinian public. Twenty episodes out of the total thirty were part of the radio program "The Law under spotlight mentioned above.

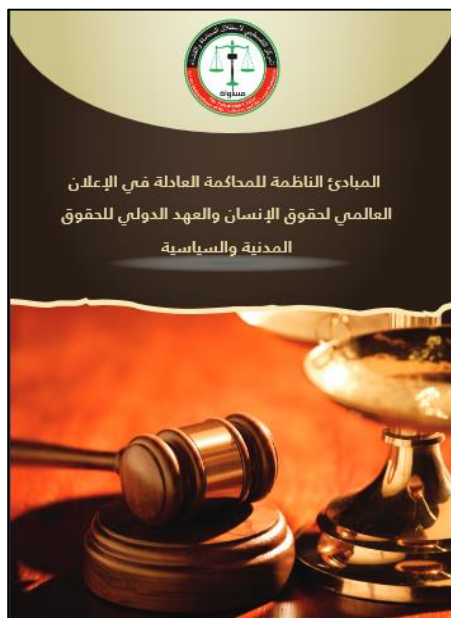
It can be said that these TV and radio appearances had an impact on MUSAWA receiving complaints through the complaint form published on its website, as well as written complaints received at its offices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which will be addressed under output 2.3.

[Annex \(2\)](#) shows MUSAWA's TV and radio appearances, in addition to the radio episodes organized by MUSAWA, and the various topics discussed in them.

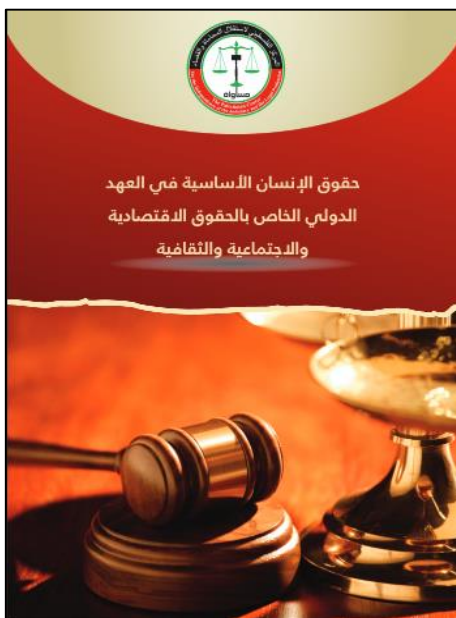
Supporting Materials

MUSAWA published three brochures during 2017, and disseminated them among legal persons and people in the marginalized groups, aiming at spreading legal awareness. These publications were used as references for the observant of law violations as well as human rights violations amongst the justice sector in Palestine. Some of the monitoring reports submitted by Lawyers for the Rule of Law groups "Friends of MUSAWA" actually have clearly stated the violations of the international standards in the covenants and declarations highlighted in these brochures in the wake of disseminating them. The published brochures were as follows:

1. Principles Regulating Fair Trial in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civic and Political Rights (2000 copies)
2. Basic Human Rights in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2000 copies)
3. Principles regulating Equality before the Law in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1000 copies).



Picture 1: Principles Regulating Fair Trial in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civic and Political Rights.



Picture 2: Basic Human Rights in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.



Picture 3: Principles regulating Equality before the Law in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Outcome 2: Enhanced Right to a Fair Trial

Output 2.1: Rights violations are monitored and documented

Participating in formal partnerships to implement National Justice Strategy

As a civil society organization representing organizations working in the justice sector, MUSAWA participated in the national consultations on the first Palestinian report on actions taken to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, specifically Goal 16 on Peace and Justice, “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,” and in line with the National Strategy for Justice. MUSAWA had substantive comments and observations regarding the actions the State must take to achieve this goal. The impact of such comments and inputs should be seen in the State’s reports once submitted in 2018 and at later stages of a specific schedule. However, if these inputs are not taken into consideration in the state’s reports and remedy plans, MUSAWA must consider other tools to have these inputs addressed and handled on the ground; shadow reports as an example.

Monitoring visits to the Pillars of Justice

MUSAWA depends mainly on the contributions of its voluntary groups: Lawyers for the Rule of Law “friends of MUSAWA” and Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network (PHRDs) to observe and document the right violations that occur in the different pillars of justice, mainly in courts.

During 2017, a total number of 390 right violations has been documented in MUSAWA’s records; 340 of which have been documented in Gaza, and 50 violations in the West Bank. The monitoring visits included visits to the courts, the Military Judiciary, land registration department, public prosecution and detention centers.



Picture 4: visits to the pillars of justice

As part of its monitoring role, MUSAWA was an invigilator in the written exam for Magistrate judges in Gaza, in addition to MUSAWA’s Treasurer taking part in the written examination of judges for 2017 as an exam supervisor, held by the High Judicial Council to appoint twenty Magistrate judges in the Palestinian regular courts.

In accordance with the recommendations of the periodic meeting for the PHRDs, held in January, members of the PHRDs Network prepared a short film about the network, and conducted a number of field visits to court houses and prisons both in the West Bank and Gaza: Gaza Court Complex (Magistrate and First Instance), magistrate courts and courts of first instance in Deir Al-Balah and Khan Yunis, Ramallah’s Military Court (2 visits), and Jenin’s Military Court. The visits were carried-out by a total number of 65 members of the PHRDs’ Network, including 29 female members. Furthermore, 23 members of the

Network, including 10 female participants, visited correction and rehabilitation centers in the West Bank and Gaza. These visits aimed primarily at achieving the principle of the rule of law, respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, and guaranteeing the right of litigants to access justice and ensuring fair trial guarantees. These visits are conducted within the framework of PHRDs' contact and communication with the official institutions and CSOs to develop joint cooperation in the fields of legal and human rights.

Legal Workshops in Fair Trial Guarantees: Reality vs. Ambition

MUSAWA and the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups "friends of MUSAWA" conducted a series of legal encounters (a total of 12 workshops), covering the following governorates: Gaza, North Gaza, Khan Yunis, Rafah, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Tulqarm, Jenin, and Jericho. The workshops attracted both trainees and young practicing lawyers, as well as legal professionals. A total of 301 participants attended the workshops, including 128 women. The workshops aimed at introducing fair trial guarantees in international treaties, Palestinian laws and the Palestinian Penal Procedures Law, and comparing the extent to which these guarantees are applied in the work of the Palestinian courts. Discussions made during these workshops opened the door for observations on infringements of fair trial guarantees as these infringements started to present more often in reports submitted by Lawyers for the Rule of Law groups "Friends of MUSAWA" following these workshops, especially those addressed the performance of the judges and the right to have a lawyer with guaranteed sufficient communication.

Capacity building activities for Lawyers for the Rule of Law "Friends of MUSAWA" and the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network (PHRDs)

During 2017, MUSAWA conducted 4 training courses for the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups "Friends of MUSAWA" and the PHRDs (which was established within a project funded by the European Union in 2014). The trainings were under the title "Monitoring and Documentation, and Human Rights in International Treaties", to improve their monitoring and documentation capacities of right violations and fair trial infringements. Each of these trainings were implemented over the span of three consecutive days, in Bethlehem, Nablus and Gaza. A total of 83 members participated in the training courses, 31 of which were women.

The "Friends of MUSAWA" groups are distributed over all the governorates in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and support MUSAWA in its monitoring role by providing the Center with periodic monitoring reports on the performance of the justice system, and its awareness raising role by assisting the legal staff in MUSAWA in the mobile legal clinics implemented throughout the year.

As shown in other parts of those reports, the capacity building and awareness activities that targeted MUSAWA's friends have simultaneously improved the quality of the monitoring reports they submit and indeed made their observations more sensitive and focused.

Updating the Complaints Database

MUSAWA's Legal Monitoring officers regularly update the complaints database with the complaints received through the Online Complaints System, and the complaints filed through communications with MUSAWA. During 2017, MUSAWA received and responded to a total of 57 complaints; 14 of which were received by women complainants. Seven complaints did not fall under MUSAWA's specialization and therefore were referred to the appropriate organization, including CSOs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition, four complaints were withdrawn before MUSAWA took any action, as the complainants did not wish to continue with their complaints.

MUSAWA operates an electronic database to document the complaints it receives, where each complaint is archived with details about complainant, type and cause of the complaint, as well as the action taken. The database also shows the date of receiving the complaint and the date of the first taken action. In addition, the database generates brief and detailed reports of different types of the archived complaints, thus facilitating the classification of complaints according to their subjects and knowing the nature of violations that occur in the pillars of justice and their timing in relation to the changes in the justice system as a whole and with the general political situation. More on the complaints MUSAWA handled in 2017 can be found under Output 2.3.

Output 2.2: Rights violations and fair trial infringements are published in MUSAWA's publications

Eye on Justice Gazette

During 2017, MUSAWA published two issues of the Eye on Justice Gazette, a periodical publication issued by MUSAWA, and is a unique one not only on the Palestinian national and official levels, but also in the Arab countries. The periodical is issued twice a year, and is presented in several book exhibitions organized in the Arab countries, especially in the Gulf countries, as well as in many local, regional and international libraries and universities¹. Through the Eye on Justice Gazette, MUSAWA seeks to monitor, document, follow up and address the violations of the rule of law and human rights by the justice system officials, in order to achieve the maximum level of accountability and good application of the law by those responsible on the performance of the pillars of the official justice. The information contained in the gazette is documented through MUSAWA's network of relations with lawyers, judges, prosecutors and other staff members of the pillars of justice, in addition to members

¹ See Annex (4): News and correspondences on MUSAWA's publications

of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law groups and the PHRDs, distributed over all Palestinian governorates. This information is related to violations of international laws and standards within the justice sector itself, and is published in order to shed light on the violations committed, and to demand taking the necessary measures to cancel their effects, hold the perpetrators accountable and take legal action to ensure that they are not repeated. The gazette also contain position and policy papers and legal memos issued by MUSAWA as part of its oversight role, and others issued by community coalitions that include MUSAWA, as well as articles that reflect the views of their authors, who are legal persons and civil society activists, as they are available to the opinions of all of those interested without any discrimination.

Eye on Justice first issue (Issue no. 20) was published in July, comprising of 164 large-sized pages, while issue no. 21 was issued in December, comprising of 92 large-sized pages, and including a Sign Language article.

Issue no. 20 of the gazette included MUSAWA's Vision on the Reform of the Justice System, its mechanisms and controls as a societal right, and the position of the CSOs on demanding the withdrawal of the order of referral of the Judge Abdullah Ghuzlan, judge in the Supreme Court and member of the High Judicial Council, for investigation, which came due to the views the Judge has published regarding matters of the judiciary and the justice system. The issue also included the repeated demands from the CSOs to stop the issuance of decree-laws in the West Bank and laws in Gaza, which are issued exclusively by the Executive Authority, and without hearing the opinion of community partners; such as the draft decree-law amending the Judicial Authority Law, draft decree-law amending Landlords and Tenants Law, the continued implementation of the death penalty in Gaza, Draft Decree-Law amending the Constitutional Court Law, Decree-law on Cybercrimes, The Draft Decree-Law on the Judicial Body of the Palestinian Security Forces, and the presidential decree on prohibiting the right to strike on Judges, Prosecutors and Health Sector Personnel.

The issue also included a memo on the issuance of the Palestinian official gazette including articles in English, contrary to the law. The issue covered the violations of the rule of law, including the failure to implement judicial decisions, the violation of a lawyer's right to contact their client, the cancellation of march 8th international women's day holiday in Gaza, the violation of judicial rules of conduct, the deprivation of Fair Trial Guarantees, the violation of lawyers' dignity and preventing them from performing their profession, prolonging detentions due to the procrastination of the Public Prosecutor's Office in responding to requests for release, the security services overstepping their powers and continuing to arrest citizens, and the excessive use of force to disperse peaceful gatherings.

The issue also included a legal memo that MUSAWA addressed to the Head of the High Judicial Council demanding the cancellation of mouth-muzzling circulars for judges and judicial employees, prohibiting judges from giving statements or media interviews to any party whatsoever if they are not officially commissioned by the Head of the High Judicial Council or his appointed deputy, to which they will be held accountable. In addition to a second circular instructing all court employees not to write about work-related matters on social media channels.

The issue included a documentation of legal workshops in Fair Trial Guarantees in relation to International Treaties, organized by MUSAWA in several cities, and with the participation of 301 participants, including 128 women. It also documented the First International Conference for Human Rights Defenders in Palestine, and the first conference for Lawyers for the Rule of Law groups “Friends of MUSAWA”, in addition to a series of training courses for the marginalized groups on the constitutional rights: political, civil, social, economic and cultural. Finally, the issue included a special file of the phenomenon where the Heads of the High Judicial Council submit their resignations before taking office.

Issue no. 21 included MUSAWA’s vision on the crisis of the justice system, seeing it as a human structural crisis rather than a crisis of legislations, and the action required to be taken in order to stop the crumbling trust in the justice system. The issue also documented the crime of kidnapping a lawyer from inside a courtroom, and the community demand to dissolve the joint security committee and shut down its detention facility in Jericho. In addition, the issue included legal memos re-demanding the adoption, issuance and enforcement of the Declaration of Palestinian Human Rights Defenders, and the immediate cessation of the phenomenon of detention in the Governor and Prime Minister’s custody.

The issue also included several reports of documented violations and legal memos issued by MUSAWA, including the amendment of the composition of the judicial disciplinary board by an administrative decision contrary to the rule of law, overstepping authorities and the provisions of the law by the police and security services, disrupting and non-implementation of judicial rulings, detention contrary to the rule of law and the violation of lawyers’ right to contact their clients, adapting public and private spaces for persons with special needs, violation of Fair Trial Guarantees, violation of the right to safety and physical integrity, violation of the principle of equality and discrimination against women in holding public office, taking law into one’s own hands, arbitrary detention, detention of relatives, destroying cultural heritage and the violation of the legal profession code of conduct.

In addition, the issue dealt with presidential decisions concerning the formation of formal committees for the development of the judiciary, the amendment of the Judicial Authority Law and the study of the status of the justice system in Gaza; without community participation and without any legal representation from Gaza. In addition, the issue included special documentation of the attempts by the civil society to introduce amendments decree-law on Cybercrimes, and addressed the phenomenon of appointing three advisors to the Head of the High Judicial Council, not the Council itself, and the phenomenon of transferring staff from partisan institutions to assume the post of adviser to the Head of the High Judicial Council.

Finally, the issue documented the proceedings of the Eighth Palestine Justice Conference.

[Annex \(3\)](#) states all legal memos, position papers and statements issued by MUSAWA during 2017, and the electronic links to them on MUSAWA’s website.

Justice and Law Journal

MUSAWA exclusively publishes the Justice and Law Journal, which is a journal that contains academically assessed legal studies and researches, 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 journal also contains comments on the final rulings issued by the Palestinian courts. Justice and Law Journal is the only specialized journal of its kind issued for this purpose at the internal official and civil levels, as well as on the Arab countries level. The journal is featured in bookstores and book fairs, and has been chosen as a training course at the Judicial Institute of Jordan. It is considered a reference for judges, lawyers, law professors, and masters and doctoral students. The journal is usually published at least twice a year, and has been published three times in 2017, two regular issues (29 and 31) and one special issue (issue no. 30). These issues followed the journal's regular system, where they presented academically assessed studies and researches, and also contained comments on selected final rulings issued by the Palestinian courts, in association with commentators from other Arab countries.

The issue no. 29 was published in 259 medium-sized pages, and included three academically-approved legal studies: the relation between punishment and disciplinary offence and the supervision of the administrative judiciary; tax exemptions for social purposes in accordance with the Palestinian Income Tax Law; the disassociation contract and its applications in the Palestinian legislation. The publication also included two comments on a penal judgment issued by the Court of Cassation dealing with the legal value of video footage as an evidence; four comments on a constitutional appeal issued by the Supreme Constitutional Court, the subject of which is to challenge the unconstitutionality of Article 10/a of the Lawyers' Training Law No. 1 of 2004; three comments on a judgment pronounced by the Court of Appeal in an executive case, answering the question: Is a settlement of the payment of the amount executed between the creditor and the debtor an eviction of the sponsor, or not? In addition to five comments on two explanatory decisions issued by the Supreme Constitutional Court: (1) if a lawyer becomes a judge for a certain period of time, does this period count as part of his/her legal practice as a lawyer, or not? (2) Qualifications of employment at the Legislative Council and the limits of its mandate. Furthermore, the Issue contained a special section for legal dialogues, announcing MUSAWA's vision on the recent Draft Decree-Law Amending the Supreme Constitutional Court Law, in addition to the memo of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process regarding the Draft Decree-Law on the High Criminal Court.

Issue number 31 was published in 408 medium-sized pages, and included five academically-approved legal studies: ways of enforcing International Humanitarian Law at the Palestinian national level; the general provisions of the bill; the linkage between lawsuits and requests "A comparative analytical study"; The Concept of Error in Civil and Criminal Law, and the Limits of Distinction between them; The Memorandum of Understanding between the Public Prosecution and the Bar Association, Protection and Legitimacy. The publication also included commentaries on three judgments issued by the Court of Cassation in civil cases, the first was related to one judge who ruled in a certain lawsuit (lower level court), as well as the appeal filed in that suit (higher level court), addressing the relevant implications.

The second judgment was related to the obligations arising from lawyers' limited power of attorney, while the third was related to the basis on which labor rights are calculated if the worker's wage is lower than the minimum wage. The publication also commented on a penal judgment by the same court related to the Death Penalty, and whether it should be issued by consensus of the judge's ruling in the case. In addition, the publication included two judgments issued by the Supreme Court of Justice, and an explanatory judgment issued by the Supreme Constitutional Court, based on a request from the Council of Ministers to explain Article 84 of the Palestinian Basic Law, as well as a constitutional judgment related to the Municipal Court and the conditions to file a direct constitutional court. The commentaries were provided by law professors, lawyers and specialized academics from Jordan and Egypt. A special section for legal dialogues included the publication of three papers that addressed the Silent Amendment of the Constitution; The Constitutional Issue of Priority; and the Relationship between the International Law and the Provisions of Constitutional Law: Subordination, Supremacy or Integration?

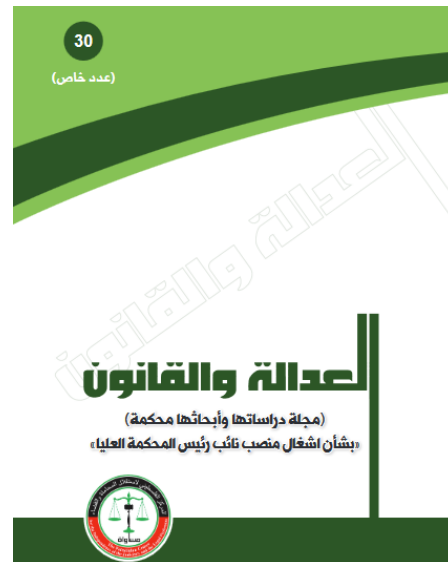
As for the special issue (issue no. 30), it was published comprising of 85 medium-sized pages, including three commentaries on the ruling of the Supreme Court regarding case no. 5/2017 on the appointment of the Vice-President of the Supreme Court.

MUSAWA has adopted the publication of special issues of the Justice and Law Journal following the formation of the Supreme Constitutional Court, which was characterized by extensive legal and community opposition, with the aim of addressing the rulings and interpretative decisions issued by it, most of which were in serious violation of the provisions of the law and constitutional principles internationally acknowledged, and were strongly criticized by experts in constitutional law and public law, including well-known academics and judges at the regional and international levels.

In order to acquire reliable feedback on the publications, MUSAWA developed a mechanism to monitor the process of dissemination and to observe the impact. Forms of the names and contact information of people received the publications were developed and started to be filled out upon dissemination. Afterwards, a random sample of recipients were contacted for their feedback on the publications, each publication at a time. MUSAWA documented the received feedback for future consideration and a perception on the dissemination process itself as well as the target group were drawn, hence a new mechanism of dissemination has been introduced in order to reach the people who are interested in the publications and are actually reading them and benefiting from the produced content.



Picture 5: Eye on Justice Gazette



Picture 6: Justice and Law Journal

Discussion Workshop on MUSAWA's Publications

In addition to the phone calls made with people obtained MUSAWA's publications to get their opinions and suggestions, in October 2017, following the dissemination of the Eye on Justice Gazette, issue no. 20, and Justice and Law Journal, issue no. 29, MUSAWA held a workshop to discuss its publications. The workshop was held in the West Bank and Gaza simultaneously, using video conference, and was attended by 55 people, 21 of whom were women. The participants included legal persons, representatives of CSOs, representatives of the pillars of justice and journalists. The attendees shared their views, suggestions and recommendations regarding the future issues; including the suggestion to dissociate the topics contained in the Journal into two separate publications, since it bears the name of an "academically assessed journal". MUSAWA took the last observation into consideration and adjusted the name of the journal to become "A journal that contains academically assessed legal studies and researches." The suggestions also included re-visiting previously published topics by re-publishing them in the new issues in order to add solutions to the problems discussed previously. These suggestions and comments have been decided to be taken into consideration in future issues of the publication.

Meetings with CSOs to Discuss Rights Violations

This report dealt with MUSAWA's joint efforts with the CSOs regarding the discussion of the exceptional legislation issued by the Executive Authority in the absence of the Legislative Council, which affect the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Palestinian Basic Law and the international treaties to which the State of Palestine has acceded, in addition to the referral of Judge

Abdullah Ghuzlan for investigation due to the views the Judge has shared regarding matters of the judiciary and the justice system and appointing the Deputy Head of the High Judicial Council in violation to the rule of law. MUSAWA took part in the defense committee, which represented the judge before the Supreme Court to challenge the decision of appointing the new Vice-President of the Supreme Court, and submitting an answer list in the disciplinary case. In addition, MUSAWA took 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, where 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, and while ensuring the confidentiality of information and the dignity of citizens.

MUSAWA also took part in the first conference of the Palestinian Judicial Institute, and stressed the importance of maintaining judge's independence, while also maintaining the right to criticize the judicial authority, as an authority as well as the performance of the judges themselves.

It can be said that the increased attention to Abdullah Ghuzlan's case and other issues within the justice system has been triggered by MUSAWA as the organization that is first to raise them to public attention.

Output 2.3: Promoted awareness about the existence of the rights complaints mechanism to target groups

MUSAWA's Complaint Mechanism

MUSAWA designed and developed a rights complaints mechanism, and pays all possible efforts to promote its existence to target groups. There are two ways to file a complaint through this mechanism; either through the online complaints system on MUSAWA's website, or through communicating with MUSAWA and filing a hard copy complaint. As mentioned earlier in this report, during 2017, MUSAWA received and responded to a total of 57 complaints; seven of these complaints did not fall under MUSAWA's specialization and therefore were referred to the appropriate organization. In addition, four complaints were withdrawn before MUSAWA took any action, as the complainants did not wish to continue with their complaints.

The complaints received by MUSAWA included the following subjects: violation of fair trial guarantees, arrest or detention contrary to the rule of law, violation of the right to equality before the law and the judiciary, violation of legal and sharia's procedures, failure to implement judicial rulings, violation of professional code of conduct, disrupting lawyers of work, discrimination against women in holding public office, referral to retirement without any legal justification, as well as the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) not following up on the report issued against the Palestinian Housing

Council Society and the loss of official files and papers from the court, workers' compensation, adapting public spaces for persons with disabilities, procedural errors in the Court of First Instance, and the President not respecting a temporary decision of the Supreme Court of Justice.

MUSAWA issued 27 legal memos to the related authorities based on the written complaints it received, and provided legal consultations for the rest.

MUSAWA received responses to some of the legal memos it issued after receiving the complaints, whether by a written response or by a procedure taken as a result of MUSAWA's intervention, including a positive response regarding stopping raids of the lawyers' offices by the Tax Department, and the cancellation of the decision of Al-Bireh Municipality to charge CSOs trade fees. It also received positive responses regarding failure in implementing a judicial ruling and the procrastination of the prosecution in responding to the requests for the release of detainees, in addition to the Central Election Commission filing a lawsuit against a party that committed violations in the local elections. MUSAWA also received responses of clarification regarding legal memos on detention cases contrary to the rule of law, the violation of the right of the detainee to contact their family, infringement of the physical integrity of citizens, failure to enforce judicial decisions, drawing back from dissolving the Palestinian Judges Association, the violation of legal and sharia procedures (where a judge was referred to judicial inspection), the formation of an investigation committee about the excessive use of force and the arrest of a citizen by the security committee, and the violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, where the Bar Association addressed the complaint and took action.

MUSAWA's Website

Since the online complaints mechanism is operated through MUSAWA's website, it is safe to assume that most of the users visiting the website are aware of it. In the period between July 27 and December 31, 2017, MUSAWA's website has been visited a total of 5602 times, by 3774 users². The statistics also show that 84.5% of the website's visitors are new users.

² MUSAWA's website data, annexed. No statistics are available for the period January 1 – July 26, 2017.

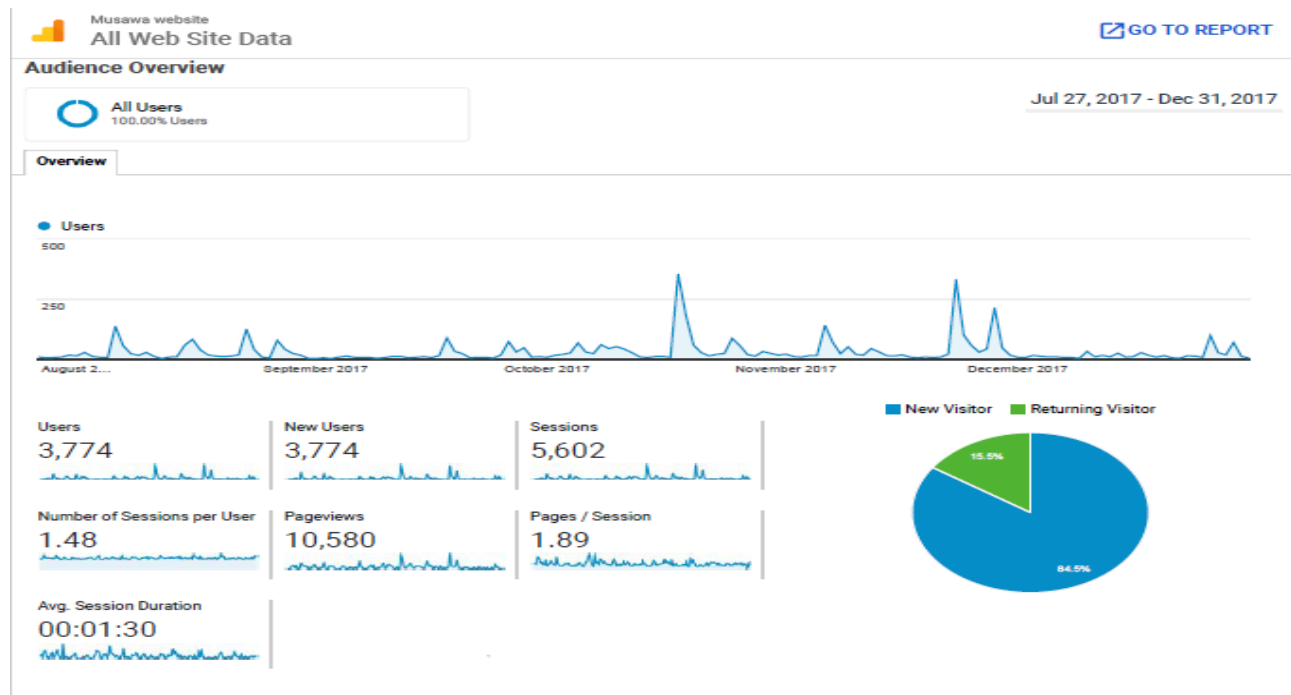


Figure 1: MUSAWA's website statistics, in terms of visitors and number of views.

MUSAWA started to observe the website analytics in order to get conclusions on the content that is most attractive and brings audience to visit the website more often. MUSAWA believes that this will also help improving the content to be more friendly to an ordinary citizen and not only to those with legal background.

Social Media Platforms

By observing the increasing public interaction on Social Media, MUSAWA started to improve its tools in approaching the public besides its traditional tools. On September 3, 2017, MUSAWA published a video on its Facebook page to promote the complaints mechanism. The video was in both spoken Arabic and Sign Language, in order to reach the biggest number possible of the target group, and to guarantee the rights of people with disabilities. The videos organic reach mounted up to 6269 Facebook users, while the total number of views reached 3539. It is worth mentioning that the video's top audience group was women aged between 18-24 years, which might explain the increased willingness of women to lodge a complaint at MUSAWA.



Picture 7: Video to promote the complaints mechanism, using spoken Arabic and Sign Language.

Supporting Materials

In addition, MUSAWA published and distributed a total number of 400 flyers on the complaints mechanism during 2017. These flyers were distributed in the awareness raising sessions MUSAWA held for the marginalized groups.

Media Channels

In order to reach the Palestinian public, MUSAWA advertised its complaints mechanism in national newspapers. The complaints mechanism was advertised 4 times on two newspapers; Al Ayyam Newspaper on Mach 14 and April 10, and Al Quds Newspaper on March 26 and April 19. It is worth mentioning that these two newspapers are the most widespread in Palestine.



Picture 8: Flyer on the complaints mechanism

In addition, MUSAWA participates in two TV interviews, on Al-Kufiyyeh TV and Al-Kitab TV, to promote MUSAWA's complaints mechanism, and how MUSAWA assists persons with disabilities to file complaints. This, accompanied with other raising awareness activities of MUSAWA's work at large and on the complaint system, has resulted in filing complaints by persons with disabilities.

Output 2.4: Perceptions of public and legal stakeholders in the Justice sector is assessed, documented and brought to the attention

MUSAWA assesses and documents the perceptions of the public and legal stakeholders in its bi-yearly report; the Legal Monitor. It was planned to have the Legal Monitor Report be published during 2017; however, after communications were made between MUSAWA, UNDP and NRO, it was decided to postpone publishing the report to 2018, to be completed in cooperation with UNDP. Therefore, all data related to the Legal Monitor Report will be available in 2018.

Outcome 3: Enhanced Access to Justice

Output 3.1: Training courses are designed for Law Faculty students and young practicing lawyers

Training Courses

During 2017, MUSAWA conducted a total of 8 training courses to lawyers working in the justice sector, as well as law faculty students. The total number of lawyers who benefited from the training courses was 141, 48 of whom were women.

Lawyers received trainings on the following topics:

1. Monitoring and Documentation, and Human Rights in International Treaties: four three-day training courses were provided to lawyers in the Lawyers for the Rule of Law groups “Friends of MUSAWA”, in order to improve their monitoring and documentation capacities of right violations and fair trial infringements. The courses were divided over the West Bank and Gaza, with a total number of 83 participants, 31 of which were women.
2. Pleadings before Military Justice: The training was conducted over three consecutive days in September for the members of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups “Friends of MUSAWA” at the ICHR in Gaza. A total of 30 members attended the training, including 5 women.
3. Palestine Joining the International Criminal Court: This course targeted lawyers and legal professionals in Gaza, and was attended by 8 people, 3 of whom were women.
4. Inheritance: The course was attended by 8 lawyers and legal professionals in Gaza, 4 of whom were women.
5. Legal Terms in English: Understanding the need to improve the English Language of people working in the justice sector, especially in relation to legal terms, MUSAWA conducted a training course over the span of two days, which was attended by 12 participants, five of which were women.

In addition to the specified training courses, MUSAWA conducted a number of sessions to lawyers and law students to introduce them to specific topics. The total number of attendees in these sessions reached 297, 144 of them were women. Over the course of 12 sessions, the following topics were discussed: Strengthening the role of lawyers and media personnel in monitoring human rights violations, proceedings of criminal trials, testimony of witnesses, procedures of Sharia Courts, violence against men, inheritance, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Human Rights Defenders, and Juvenile law.

These training courses contributed to the legal strengthening the legal abilities of the trainees, including lawyers from the Lawyers for the Rule of Law groups “Friends of MUSAWA”, and legal persons in the PHRDs, which was reflected in the content of their reports on monitoring and

documenting law and rights violations in the pillars of Justice, where 390 violations were documented during 2017, as mentioned earlier. It has been observed that certain violations have begun to be monitored and documented, though they have not been monitored in the past, particularly those relating to human rights violations in relation to international treaties. A list of the most important violations observed during 2017 can be found in issues no. 20 and no. 21 of the Eye on Justice Gazette.

Moot Courts

Since the practical application of theoretical knowledge is the best way to develop and improve the knowledge and skills of the young practicing lawyers and law students, MUSAWA conducted two moot courts during 2017, as follows:

1. The first Moot Court was conducted as part of the training course “Pleadings before Military Justice”, mentioned above. The moot court was presented before the military judiciary in Gaza, by the participants in the training course.
2. In December 2017, MUSAWA organized a moot court training for 30 law students in three universities in Gaza, in cooperation with Dr. Haydar Abdul Shafi Center for Culture and Development. The training, which took course over 11 sessions, provided theoretical and practical training for the members of the two teams participating in the moot court on the Penal Procedures Law No. 3 of 2001, and the Palestinian Penal Code No. (74) of 1936 applicable in the Gaza Strip. Following the completion of the training program, the members of the participating teams were provided with a copy of a real criminal case in which a final judicial ruling was issued. MUSAWA was unable to complete the training course and implement the competition during the same month of 2017, and a number of sessions were extended to 2018. This activity was conducted as part of the joint work with the grassroots institutions initiated by MUSAWA in order to build the capacities of these institutions in the fields of monitoring and documenting law and rights violations.



Pictures 9 and 10: Moot Court training for the law students in Gaza Strip

MUSAWA has developed pre and post questionnaires to gauge the impact of the moot courts training on the students' knowledge and skills. These questionnaires should draw a picture on the role these students might play to advocate for the right to access to justice in the future, as legal professionals and soldiers fighting against violations of the right to access to justice, the right to fair trial and the right to equality before the law and the judiciary.

Conducting a Comprehensive Training Needs Assessment for the Lawyers and Legal Persons

MUSAWA has developed a mechanism for assessing the training needs of lawyers and legal persons, taking into account the geographical distribution and gender of the sample. MUSAWA will conduct this assessment starting from the beginning of 2018, where the updated data on the number of lawyers will be available. Based on the results of this assessment, the training programs to be implemented throughout the year will be determined, aim at strengthening the capacities of lawyers to monitor the performance of the pillars of justice.

Providing Support to Palestinian Universities

MUSAWA team conducted a number of visits and meetings to law faculties in the Palestinian universities, including holding meetings with Al Quds University in the West Bank, in addition to meetings with the University of Gaza, the University of Palestine and Al Azhar University in Gaza. Though MUSAWA was informed by some of the law faculties that they continuously update their curricula based on new treaties and laws; the meetings resulted in signing two MoUs with two universities in Gaza, which are the University of Gaza and Al Azhar University, and work is in progress to sign a third MoU with Al Quds University in the West Bank. The MoUs agree on providing mutual support between the two parties, for the development of both academic learning and applied training for law students. MUSAWA will continue its communications with the law faculties in the different Palestinian universities, aiming at signing additional MoUs and paving the way for future cooperation and support.

It is worth pointing out here that the training courses mentioned in the above section were conducted by MUSAWA with the law faculty students based on their requests for such forms of cooperation. MUSAWA aims to encourage the law faculties in the Palestinian universities to update their curricula in line with the orientation of the State of Palestine in signing the international treaties and covenants related to human rights, as well as enhance their role in the national dialogue to harmonize national legislation with these treaties. This cooperation may contribute to the knowledge base of students as future human rights defenders.

Output 3.2: Legal counseling is provided for the marginalized groups

As mentioned in “Output 1.3: Promoting Legal Awareness to the Marginalized Groups”, and as a result of monitoring the awareness and training activities of marginalized groups, MUSAWA adopts the Legal Clinic Program to promote legal awareness amongst marginalized groups. The Legal Clinic Program allows MUSAWA’s staff and volunteers to reach people in the marginalized areas, thus offering a better opportunity to spread legal awareness among them. Thus, the field visits have been then designed within this program to consist of two parts: an awareness session chosen on a specific legal topic, and legal consultations provided to the people upon their requests.

Confirming what has been stated earlier, during 2017, MUSAWA targeted 34 marginalized areas in its Legal Clinic Program; some areas were targeted more than once, with a total number of 55 field visits, 49 of which were associated with awareness raising sessions, discussing 25 different topics. The topics included, but were not limited to, inheritance, labor law, Children’s rights, Personal Status Law, Decree-law on Cybercrimes and Women’s rights and CEDAW. About 933 direct beneficiaries attended the awareness raising sessions, including women and people with disabilities.

In the second part of the Legal Clinic field visits, legal consultations are provided to the people attending these sessions. During 2017, a total number of 153 legal consultations were provided to the marginalized groups in 55 visits to the northern and southern governorates, excluding Jerusalem, Qalqilya and Rafah, which were referred to earlier. 46% of legal consultations were provided to women, while 58% of the legal consultations were provided to people within the age group 25-44, followed by the age group 45-64 and 28% of the consultations.

Although MUSAWA’s team was unable to reach the governorate of Rafah to hold awareness raising sessions there, it provided legal consultations to people from Rafah governorate who attended the awareness raising sessions held in the other governorates of Gaza Strip, thus receiving 4% of the total consultations provided by MUSAWA. In general, 59% of the legal consultations were provided in the Gaza Strip, while 41% were provided in the West Bank governorates. In terms of the subjects of these consultations, 66% of them discussed civil cases, most of which dealt with labor rights, crimes and the law, theft and lease contracts, while 34% discussed sharia cases that generally dealt with divorce cases, inheritance, child custody and Personal Status Law. It has been observed that people attended the awareness sessions were encouraged to seek more information on the issues addressed in those sessions and even provided suggestions on other priority subjects to be addressed in the future.

By building partnerships with grassroots organizations, MUSAWA aims to support the continued provision of free legal consultations to the marginalized groups through Lawyers for the Rule of Law groups "Friends of MUSAWA", to be an integral part of the activities of these organizations in the long term.

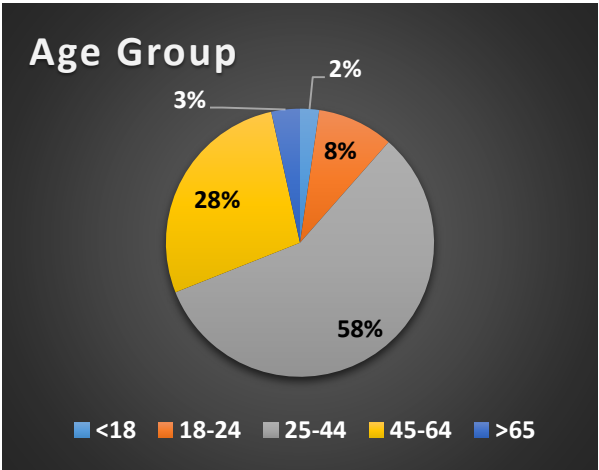


Figure 2: Distribution by Age Group

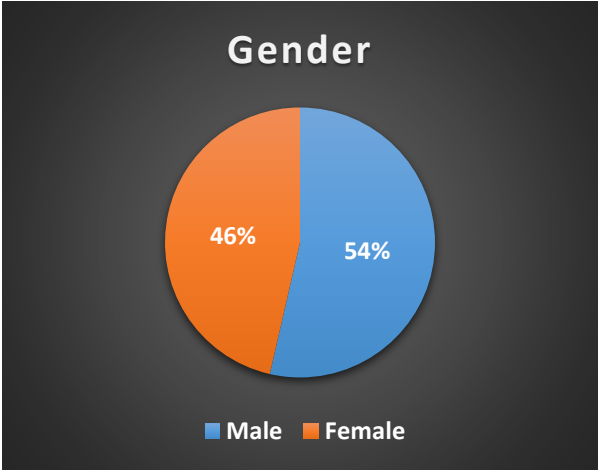


Figure 3: Distribution by Gender

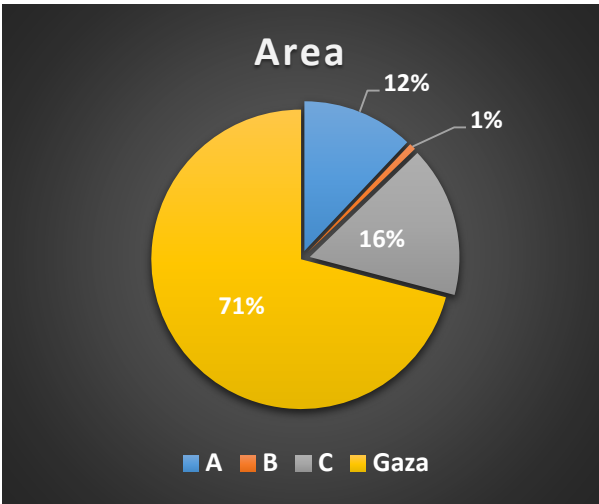


Figure 4: Distribution by Area

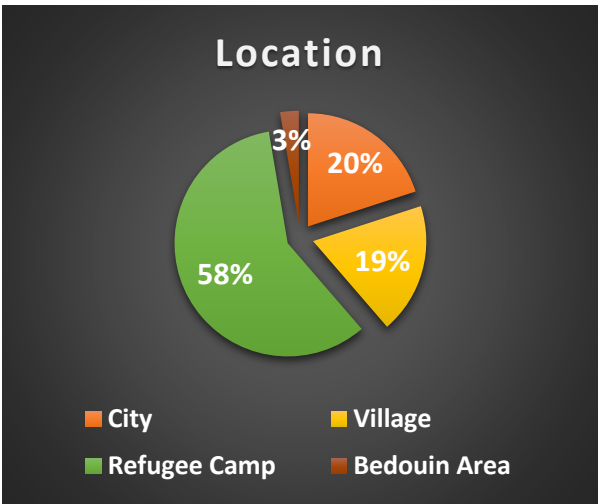


Figure 5: Distribution by Location

Output 3.3: Advocacy campaigns designed and implemented according to plan related to the memos

Through its membership in Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO) and the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process, as well as through joint efforts to build partnerships at the grassroots organizations level, MUSAWA mobilized opinions to support the shared visions that were raised and announced in the legal memos and unified position papers. The Eighth Palestine Justice Conference crowned these efforts, where the most important issues and recommendations related to the justice system were raised by different partners. MUSAWA also participated in campaigns organized by other organizations that it saw shared some of the goals MUSAWA aspires to achieve for Palestine. These include MUSAWA's participation in the national campaign for increasing minimum wage, and the participation in the 16-day campaign for the elimination of violence against women around the world, in addition to MUSAWA's Board member, Adv. Fayzeh Al-Shawish, taking a leading part in the activities which took place on the International Day for Eliminating Violence against Women.

MUSAWA's participation in joint advocacy activities have shed the light on the importance of collective efforts to exchange perceptions and experiences as well as to identify the possibilities of improving the advocacy tools and methods. Therefore, MUSAWA paved the road for plans of strategic partnerships with grassroots organizations to sustain the monitoring and documentation of human rights and law violations at a larger scale that will help involving new actors as human rights defenders and as public oversight and monitoring agents or activists.

Highlights and Success Stories of 2017

February 2017

The First International Conference for Human Rights Defenders in Palestine

MUSAWA conducted a number of meetings for the PHRDs network during 2017, including a regular meeting for the PHRDs coordinators in January, with a representative of the European Union and other PHRD-members, in the West Bank and Gaza, and a total of 31 members including 15 female participants. The participants recommended that new methods be sought to ensure the continuation of the Network's work. They also stressed the vitality of pursuing the approval of the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration so that human rights defenders are legally protected, organizing field visits to courts and prisons, carrying-out local workshops, and publishing a short film to introduce the Network and stress its importance.

In addition, MUSAWA conducted eight meetings in eight different areas for the PHRDs in January (Ramallah, Jerusalem and Jericho; Salfeet and Nablus; Tulkarem and Qalqilya; Jenin and Tubas; Bethlehem and Hebron; Gaza and North Gaza; Gaza's Middle Governorate; Khan Yunis and Rafah) were carried-out and attended by a total of 94 members, including 48 female participants. Similar meetings were conducted in February, and were attended by 107 members, including 55 female participants. In March, and in addition to the monthly meeting held in Gaza, MUSAWA organized a meeting for the members and coordinators of the PHRDs' Network in its Gaza Office, to discuss the members' suggestions regarding the possibility of a new project for the Network, and in preparation for the first International Conference for Human Rights Defenders in Palestine.

In February, MUSAWA launched the first international conference for HRDs in Palestine, in cooperation with the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network (PHRDs), supported by the EU. The conference, holding the title *"Empowering, Protecting and Activating the Role of Human Rights Defenders"*, aimed at empowering HRDs in Palestine while shedding light on the mechanisms available to ensure further protection and enhancement for Palestinian HRDs at the national as well as the international level, and attracted around 450 male and female participants in the West Bank and Gaza.

The conference included the screening of a short video about the HRDs, which was prepared and published based on the recommendations of the regular meeting for the PHRDs coordinators, held in January 2017.

MUSAWA and the PHRDs' Network highlighted the vitality of endorsing the PHRD Declaration by international stakeholders and the Palestinian official authorities so as to ensure the promotion of HRDs in Palestine, in addition to recognizing the Network as an umbrella for social movement and enabling its members of fulfilling their duties without any obstruction, and holding accountable anyone responsible of prejudicing their rights or hindering their work.

As part of MUSAWA efforts to push for the endorsement of the PHRD Declaration, MUSAWA's General Manager met with the UN Special Rapporteur, where he 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.

May 2017

MUSAWA an official observer of the local elections

MUSAWA was approved as an official observer of the local elections. Lawyers, media figures, and unionists from all over the West Bank sent applications to MUSAWA requesting to be authorized as official observers in the elections.

June 2017

MUSAWA announces its vision for the Reform of the Justice System

MUSAWA published its vision on the Reform of the Justice System: The Judiciary, Constitutional Court, and Public Prosecution; which has been published in the light of the consensus among the official pillars of justice to amend the Judicial Authority Law, and consider Law No. 15 of 2005 and the studies

and research submitted to the official bodies as the basis for this amendment as agreed by them, and as an alternative to the draft decree-law prepared by the Minister of Justice as commissioned by the Government. MUSAWA's vision came as a prelude to the joint efforts with the CSOs and official bodies that culminated in the Eighth Palestine Justice Conference at the end of the year, which resulted in the initiative launched by MUSAWA at the beginning of 2018 to unify and rebuild the justice system.

August (& December 2017)

Memorandums of Understanding with Law Faculties in Palestinian Universities

MUSAWA signed two Memorandums of Understanding with the University of Gaza and Al-Azhar University, for the development of both academic learning and applied training for law students.

November 2017

MUSAWA's Justice and Law Journal Taught at the Judicial Institute of Jordan

The Judicial Institute of Jordan chooses the Justice and Law Journal, which is a periodic publication MUSAWA issues on a bi-annual basis, to be taught as part of a course about commenting on judicial rulings, offered by the Judicial Institute of Jordan.

December 2017

The Eighth Palestine Justice Conference

MUSAWA Held the Eighth Palestine Justice Conference: "Where is the Justice System Heading in Light of Reconciliation?", which resulted in unified recommendations from active actors in the justice sector, which in turn led to the development of an initiative to unify and rebuild the justice system in Palestine. Detailed information about the conference is included under Output 1.1.



Pictures 11,12,13 and 14: Eight Palestine Justice Conference in Gaza and WB

Milestones in the Institutional Building of MUSAWA

1. Communication and participation between the General Assembly and the Board of Directors of MUSAWA and its executive staff

In order to activate the communication and participation in the implementation of the executive plan between MUSAWA's General Assembly and its Board of Directors with the executive staff, the General Assembly held its regular annual meeting with the attendance and participation of its executive staff. The members of the Board of Directors also met with the executive staff and several GA and BoD members participated in the activities of MUSAWA in accordance with the executive plan approved by the Board. MUSAWA's official bodies also approved the amendments to MUSAWA's regulations, including the structure, job descriptions and internal work systems. MUSAWA adopts bi-weekly meetings of the executive staff to follow up the implementation of the executive plan and discuss the mechanisms of developing MUSAWA's work.

The internal life at MUSAWA witnessed regular meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the law and the institutional need. Members of the Board of Directors participated in the meetings of MUSAWA with duty bearers and partner and friend organizations as reported in different stations of this report. The BoD adopted new policies which consist of the formation of administrative committees from its members concerned with the internal and external work of MUSAWA, including the Legal Committee which supervises the issuance of MUSAWA's position on justice system issues, and which supervised the preparation of MUSAWA's initiative to unify and rebuild the justice system. Also, an executive committee, consisting of the General Manager, the Executive Manager, the Finance Manager, the Public Relations and Fundraising Officer, supervises the implementation of the executive plan, faces challenges and provides alternative solutions in light of the lack of funding and the organization's tendency to rely on its internal resources to cope with the deficit in the budget.

2. MUSAWA's Structure

As the year 2017 brought changes and developments on MUSAWA's structure, including the introduction of the Executive Manager position. MUSAWA's team could feel and identify the effects that resulted from having a structure that has clear lines of communications, and clear understanding of each team member's responsibilities, which helped the team to work in a more effective and efficient manner, and resulted in the development of internal mechanisms and work strategies to develop the MUSAWA's relations with different parties and to improve the media presence of MUSAWA through visual, audio and written media, and through social media platforms. An internal communication strategy was also developed and implemented with the Gaza office through the appointment of a staff member as an administrative supervisor, while the legal staff in the West Bank follow up on archiving and reporting with the legal staff in Gaza, under the supervision of the Executive Manager. A bi-weekly internal

reporting system was put into effect, where the reports are discussed in the bi-weekly meeting of the executive staff.



3. Vacancies

Having vacant positions, the year 2017 did not start optimally for MUSAWA. However, MUSAWA managed to fill these positions and recruit qualified staff to join its team and contribute to the achievement of its goals. The position of the Internal Operations Manager was occupied, which the GA later approved to convert to the post of Executive Manager. A Public Relations and Fundraising Officer was recruited, in addition to a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and a Finance Manager. Thus, all the positions in the organizational structure of MUSAWA are filled, with job descriptions defining the responsibilities and authorities. Filling the vacancies helped in activating the internal monitoring system as well as improving internal policies. Starting with building a monitoring and evaluation system was a significant step where monitoring forms and methods have been developed and introduced and then put in action starting from mid-2017. On the other hand, through filling the Public Relations and Fundraising vacancy, new communication channels have been initiated with local and international organizations and individuals as a part of the networking and communication policy paper that was initially developed following filling the vacancy.

4. Developing policy papers and internal regulations

Under the supervision of the internal committees of the BoD, MUSAWA's executive staff developed policy papers on fundraising, networking and communication, anti-corruption policies, and social networking. The financial strategy and internal regulations of the organization were also updated in line with the structural changes and the development of the internal mechanisms. MUSAWA's staff started working to implement these policies as will be described later in this report.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

During 2017, and following the recruitment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, MUSAWA began establishing a monitoring and evaluation system by developing a plan consistent with the executive plan and building models for monitoring and evaluating activities according to their nature. This has helped to develop and modify some of the procedures and mechanisms in the implementation of activities. For example, awareness raising workshops were integrated with the provision of legal consultations based on the recommendations of the monitoring and evaluation report. In addition, the dissemination mechanism of MUSAWA's periodic publications was reviewed in order to allow the issues to reach those who want them and benefit from them, including legal persons and institutions.

6. Mainstreaming Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)

MUSAWA adopted holding the official bodies accountable for their responsibilities through its memos and position papers on the violations of the law and human rights, and demanded that the appropriate legal action be taken to address and overcome these violations. This is accompanied by conducting awareness raising campaigns for the citizens, especially those in the marginalized areas and within the most marginalized groups, such as women, children and people with disabilities. To activate this role, MUSAWA focused on supporting the observance of violations and improving the justice system both as a system and infrastructure through working within coalitions. As aforementioned, a good example of empowering marginalized people to speak up for their rights was the inputs made by persons with disabilities at the 8th Palestine Justice Conference where they raised their voices for the application of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In the same context and in addition to its work in the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process, MUSAWA began working on the establishment of coalitions led by it at the level of the grassroots organizations in Gaza Strip and the West Bank, in order to build the capacities of these organizations in the monitoring and documenting violations, and performing pressure on duty bearers to address these violations.

In addition, MUSAWA focused on the harmonization of physical and programmatic specializations for people with disabilities. Translation into Sign Language was provided at the Eighth Palestine Justice Conference, and the locations in the West Bank and Gaza were chosen to be accessible for people with physical disabilities.

In addition, as part of its participation in conferences and workshops on issues related to human rights, MUSAWA participated in the meeting about cooperation and coordination between institutions working in the field of democracy and human rights, the Civil Society Organizations Commission, and the Ministry of Justice, and in the launching of a project which tackles Palestine's adherence to human rights agreements: building capacities for execution and accountability, as well as in the conference titled "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, and in the Second International Conference on Activating Safeguards and Mechanisms for Protection against Torture in Palestine.

Simultaneously, MUSAWA has submitted proposals to promote the adaptation of justice pillars to ensure women's access to justice, in terms of legislative, physical and procedural aspects, as a comprehensive effort working at the decision making level as well as at the right holders' level, i.e. women.

7. Gender Mainstreaming

Although MUSAWA has a good record in gender mainstreaming efforts as well as promoting gender equity since its establishment³, it has passed significant accumulative milestones throughout the years. During 2017, MUSAWA made great progress in mainstreaming gender:

- Institutional Structure: A new Board of Directors was elected in October 2017, with the participation of 26 members of the General Assembly out of 29. For the first time, the elected BoD includes two members from the Gaza Strip, one of whom is a woman. Two other women were elected for the membership of the BoD, one of them was elected the Vice-President of the Board, and the other the Secretary.
- The executive staff consists of 15 persons, 10 of them are women, 3 of whom are in leadership positions; while the senior management team consists of 3 women and one man, and the executive management position is held by a woman.
- MUSAWA's strategic plan was reviewed following receiving a specialized training in mainstreaming gender issues.
- All of MUSAWA's publications, including legal memos, position papers, correspondences and reports; are now reviewed to ensure that they are gender sensitive, especially the documents issued in Arabic, as they require special attention in this regard.
- MUSAWA's policies and internal procedures have been reviewed to eliminate any discrimination against women, taking CEDAW convention into account.
- A policy paper on anti corruption has been prepared, and a training has been provided to the executive staff and members of the BoD and GA, with a special focus on gender issues on the institutional level.
- During the preparation and organization of the Eighth Palestine Justice Conference, gender mainstreaming was taken into account, starting with the consultation phase, developing the agenda and topics of the conference, and ending with the selection of speakers and chairpersons of the sessions.
- MUSAWA relies on women lawyers in receiving complaints and providing legal consultations in the marginalized areas, thus encouraging women to submit complaints and request legal advice by making them feel more comfortable.
- MUSAWA follows up on, and participates in, conferences and workshops on gender issues organized by the various organizations, in order to keep up to date with the reality in Palestine and benefit from their experiences. MUSAWA participated in the "Gender Mainstreaming in the Security Sector Reform" training, the closing conference on enhancing gender issues in the Palestinian security institution in line with CEDAW, the conference held by the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization against Domestic Violence against Women, and a conference titled "The Reality of Woman Journalists in Palestine (Obstacles and Challenges)".

³ It is noteworthy that in 2011, MUSAWA sent a letter to the President Office demanding the application of a previous presidential decree on the 8th of March Holiday, and the center received a letter back confirming that the 8th of March will be officially a paid national holiday. See Annex (5) for these correspondences.

- In regard to a complaint received by a judge woman in Gaza for not appointing her to a position of magistrate judge despite her high grades in the written exam and interview, MUSAWA not only issued a legal memo to the Ombudsman Office in Gaza, but also collected signatures of other 17 Palestinian organisations and issued a joint position paper titled: “Saying No to sex-based discrimination in senior positions in the judiciary: Women have the right to hold public office and senior positions of all levels.”

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

1. Networking and Building Relationships

MUSAWA understands the necessity to create good networks and build better relationships with the different stakeholders in the justice sector. This is particularly needed as it helps MUSAWA cooperate with other organizations on matters that do not completely fall under MUSAWA’s jurisdiction. In addition, it can be used to put pressure on authorities in related cases, and to improve MUSAWA’s opportunities in receiving financial and policy support to enhance its continuity. However, MUSAWA’s unique and critical role as a watchdog organization triggered some resistance from peer organizations that is widely believed to have more pragmatic positions towards some issues, in addition to MUSAWA’s call for the transition from using the same old tools of asking duty bearers to cooperate, to which they usually turn a blind eye, into demanding them to respect the principles of the separation of powers and the good governance hence holding them accountable for the deteriorating situation in every possible ways at local or international levels. As a mitigation, MUSAWA formulated a policy paper for networking with the various local and international institutions in order to strengthen MUSAWA’s relations through explaining its insight and highlighting the critical consequences of keep using the same ineffective tools. This might help building new relations and partnerships with institutions that share common visions and goals. MUSAWA started implementing this policy and contacted several parties requesting individual meetings, some of which were conducted during 2017, and are to be completed and followed up in 2018. Communication via e-mail and Skype were also made with parties outside Palestine, including institutions operating in the justice sector and educational institutions in Europe, the United States and Canada. These international connections would help in exchanging experiences and lessons learnt from other places around the world with relatively similar context.

2. Funding

MUSAWA, like other organizations working in the justice sector, faces difficulties in raising funds for its work, where the efforts made during 2017 did not result with the provision of a core fund similar to the one provided by the Netherlands Representative Office (NRO). As a result, MUSAWA had to head towards finding alternative solutions to implement the activities

with the minimum cost possible, thus relying on its relations with volunteer experts, in addition to its voluntary groups, to achieve this result, as is evident in the various stations of this report. In developing communication, networking and fundraising strategies and policy papers, new local and international stakeholders have been approached to contact them about the provision of policy and financial support to MUSAWA.

And in communicating with various donors, including representatives of Nordic countries, the Italian Development Cooperation and the Canadian Representative Office; the responses focused on the reducing of support for the justice sector, the reservation of available support in the following three years in previously identified sectors, and postponing the possibility of starting a cooperation with MUSAWA until new budgets are identified after the completion of existing projects. Some of the representative offices indicated a possible change in funding policies after the victory of the right-wing in the election in a number of European countries.

MUSAWA has submitted a project proposal to support the endorsement of the Declaration of Palestinian Human Rights Defenders to the German Representative Office, and competed in the final round of selection. However, the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs' final choice was for the benefit of another project.

In the same context, MUSAWA addressed local contacts, including Palestinian companies and banks, to support the Eighth Palestine Justice Conference and other activities. However, these parties indicated that their social responsibility priorities do not fall directly within the scope of MUSAWA's work, however; MUSAWA managed to provide direct funding for the Conference from SAWASYA program.

The Public Relations and Fundraising Officer sent letters to the law faculties around the world to organize joint activities within MUSAWA's executive plan, in regards to building the capacities of law faculties in Palestinian universities, as well as to cooperate in the development of curricula, the exchange of expertise, and to provide support to MUSAWA's publications, such as Justice and Law Journal, Eye on Justice Gazette and the Legal Monitor on the long term. Some of these colleges showed positive signs of future cooperation, and expressed their interest in visiting MUSAWA and learn about its scope of work.

MUSAWA seeks to intensify its efforts in this field in 2018 to secure sufficient funding to cover the core expenses of the center and to provide a budget for the implementation of the executive plan, especially since the core funding of the NRO ends in 2019.

MUSAWA's budget of 2017 was USD 636,881 where 83% of it was secured, 70% was from NRO. The mitigation as briefly aforementioned, MUSAWA has taken the initiative and continued to carry out the high priority activities with the minimum available funding, that some was transferred from the admin cost since some admin costs did not take place such as moving out, which saved money for activity implementing purposes. In this regard, sensitivity analysis was updated to prioritize the activities so the high impact activities were implemented. MUSAWA has placed different importance on different activities depending on their significance to

MUSAWA mission statement and objectives. The categories are divided into high, medium, low depending on the priority provided by the strategic plan. Also, MUSAWA has assessed current income and secured funding in order to reduce the current financial gap/shortage and develop new financial procedures to work more efficiently and effectively without affecting the most significant and vital activities in the action plan. In addition, some activities were project-based which could not be implemented as planned since they are designed with a specific budget, such as the moot courts that were designed with specific number of training sessions and hours, as well as specific numbers of universities and students. However, the moot courts as an activity was implemented as a small activity in 2017 with smaller number of participants, accompanied with cutting out the budget planned for prizes and transportation.

In addition, some activities were implemented with low quality, yet relatively adequate, facilities as a result of income deficit. For example, some legal clinics activities were held in kindergartens or open spaces that are not considered as the best options to hold such activities. Furthermore, MUSAWA has reactivated its networks of expert friends and others to help implementing some awareness activities free of charge as a contribution to MUSAWA's sustainability.

In fact, the internal M&E reports have helped in addressing the less efficient activities and it provided useful recommendations in terms of achieving the outcomes using different tools and methods, including merging activities as clarified earlier in this report. These reports helped the management team and the BoD to reconsider some activities and create new approaches to increase the impact of MUSAWA's work.

3. Social Media Platforms

MUSAWA has been observing the role that Social Media platforms play in today's world, especially as it provides high reach levels, with a relatively low cost and given that a wide number of people are using these platforms on a regular and continuous basis, taking into consideration the lack of funding for a regular and consistent presence in traditional media. Therefore, MUSAWA started working on developing its presence on social media platforms in 2017 by creating content that is suitable for these platforms, especially Facebook; the most popular platform in Palestine, according to the Social Media Report the Social Studio has been publishing for 3 years now.

MUSAWA has developed a policy paper on mechanisms for organizing its work on social media platforms, through a team of staff members, and with the support of media professionals and lawyers in the volunteer groups.

The year 2017 marked a significant development in the public interaction on MUSAWA's Facebook page, which has developed the media content published on the page. The development of the interaction continues until the preparation of this report with remarkable

results that will be reflected in subsequent reports, but started to appear as a result of what has started in 2017.

The following figures, taken from the Facebook page insights, show development in the interaction on MUSAWA's Facebook page. Although MUSAWA relied entirely on the organic reach to followers and did not utilize the paid advertising system for its page and publications; increased interest in the Facebook page and content has been observed, and an additional number of around 1000 new likes to the page has been recorded during 2017.



Figure 6: Change in the number of MUSAWA's Facebook page likes throughout 2017

The page insights also show that 37% of those who engage with the publications of the page are women, and that there is an interest in the content published on the page by a non-follower audience, as shown in Figure 7 below.

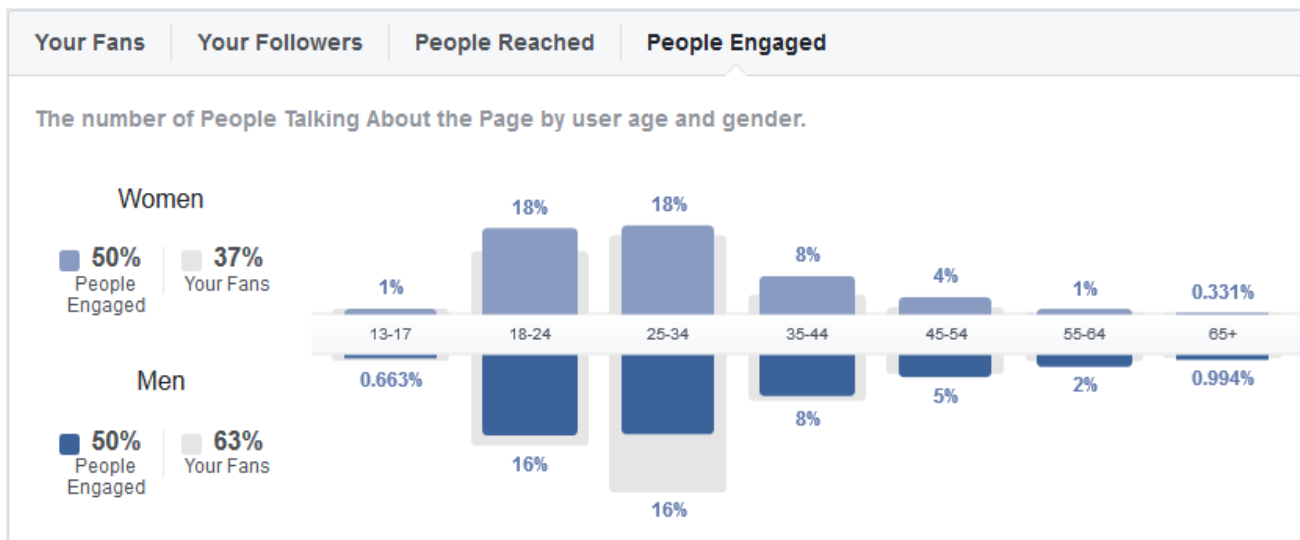


Figure 7: The percentages of people engaged in MUSAWA's Facebook page during 2017, by user, age and gender.

Statistics also show that since the introduction of the social networking strategy in April 2017, the content has developed to reach a greater number of Facebook users, culminating in the months of May and June, which is in the same period MUSAWA announced its vision to reform the justice system, which indicates the increasing attention to MUSAWA’s content on Social Media.

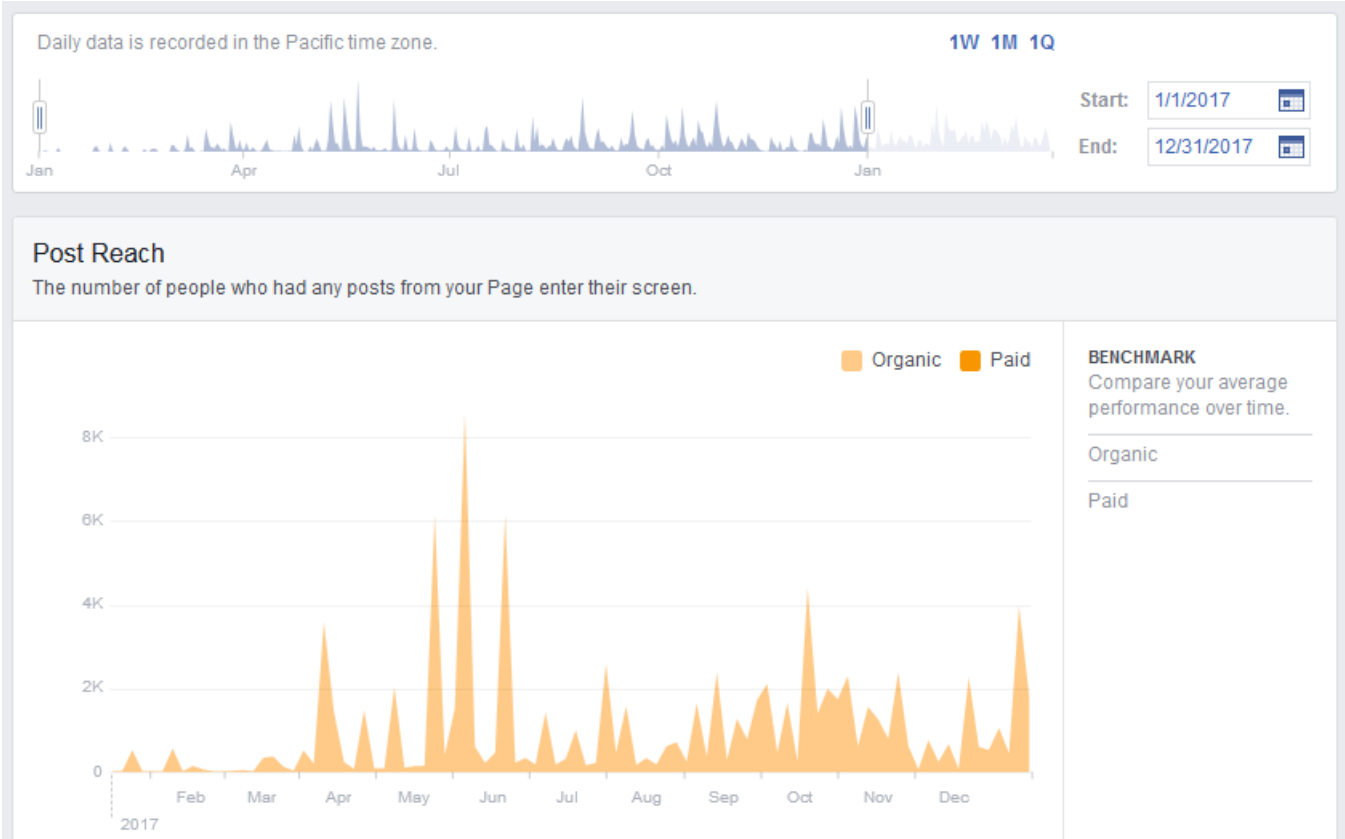
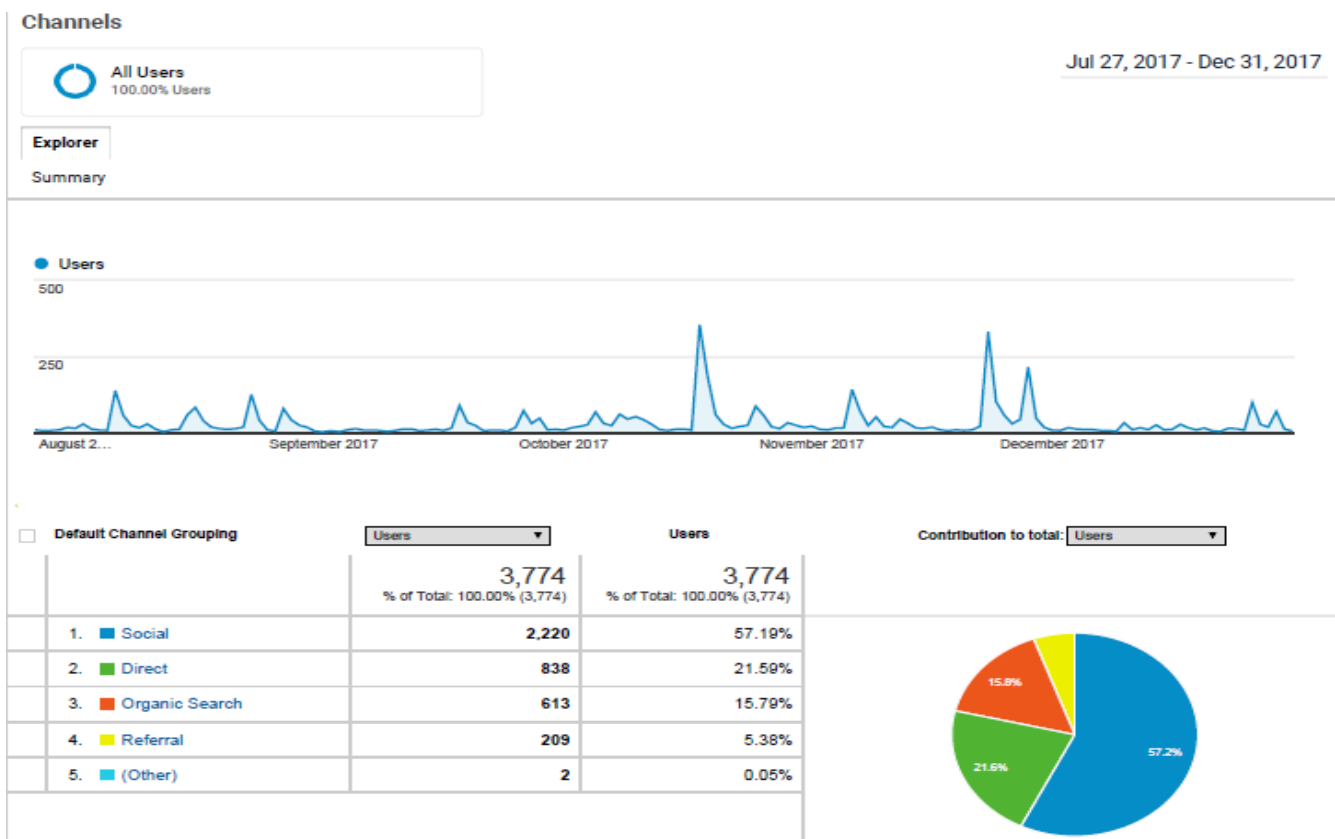


Figure 8: Change in the number of Facebook users who had posts from MUSAWA’s page shown in their newsfeed during 2017.

It should be noted that the interaction on MUSAWA’s page on Facebook was also reflected in the number of visits to the center’s website. Although there are no available statistics for the interaction on the website before July 2017, the following figures show the changes in the period between August to December 2017.

Figure 9 below shows that 57.2% of the website visitors are redirected via social media platforms; ie. Facebook, where MUSAWA publishes links from the website. Figure 10 shows the nature of the links visited and what the visitor opens after being redirected from Facebook. In fact, the more people visit MUSAWA’s website, the more possibilities of mobilizing the public to take part in the advocacy for the reform, unification and development of the justice system.



Expected Risks

At external level:

- - The political division in the Palestinian territories turns into a complete separation, leading to the end of reconciliation efforts and resulting in two different “regimes”. Naturally, this restricts the communication between MUSAWA’s management and the executive staff located in Gaza, and it raises complications in the relationship MUSAWA has with the duty-bearers whether in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. Given the critical role of MUSAWA, it is possible that any of the two governments arrest or detain MUSAWA’s staff. MUSAWA’s offices may get closed as well, which would require that MUSAWA’s staff work from outside the offices and search for alternative means of performing MUSAWA’s monitoring and oversight role. For example, this might require developing tools for approaching UN rapporteurs with a view to promoting international accountability of the justice system under the current restrictions on internal control and accountability.
- Further embodiment of a security-based system and an increased acquisition of all powers by the executive authority and the security forces, which in turn makes it incredibly less probable that duty-bearers and right-holders arrive at genuine collaboration and partnership. This includes imposing restrictions on MUSAWA’s work in an attempt to hinder its role as a watchdog organization.
- The international interest in building a Palestinian justice system that is consistent with international conventions and treaties (known as the International Bill of Human Rights) and the rules of good governance declines –by virtue of political and regional variables-. This encourages the postponement of the general elections, in addition to promoting the totalitarian regime and contributing to the justice system’s subordination to of the executive authority.
- The phenomenon of violating human rights, including the right to access to justice, spreads; by expanding the powers of the Joint Security Committee contrary to the law and in contradiction with the principle of separation of powers.
- An increase in the official obstacles towards the unity of the work of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and its shift into a serious pressure force, and alluring some of these organizations to work as subordinates to the ruling regime and to continue to observe a policy of appealing in lieu of the policy of accountability.
- The deepening of the economic and social crises as a result of the monopoly and hegemony policy, exercised by the two governments and their security services, thus increasing frustration and weakening community participation in the campaigns for monitoring and change, as well as the resorting to alternative tools for conflict resolution which might threaten the social stability.

- If the Gaza Strip is declared a rebel territory, or Hamas and Fatah are declared as illegal blocs, this will lead to obstacles in securing the salaries of the staff and providing the necessary financial resources to implement MUSAWA's activities in Gaza on the one hand, and in making use of the skills of legal professionals living under Ramallah's government or residing in Gaza but under Ramallah's government, as it is highly probable that the decision-makers on both sides would hinder the legal professionals of the opposing body from taking part in any legal or human-rights movement initiated by MUSAWA.
- The one-man show exercised by the executive authority might lead to a breakdown in the positions of CSOs, distorting the unified vision these organizations have to rebuild the justice system, which means losing the current alliance of these organizations (To retreat from their current positions as a means of maintaining their existence by adopting positions that are more toned-down). This means that MUSAWA should continuously seek new allies, with specific focus on grassroots organizations to promote their role in this regard, the matter that MUSAWA has established.
- The possibility of the death of the Palestinian President may lead to armed conflict between the competitors for his succession, which may set the atmosphere for social and security breakout, leading to movement difficulties between the governorates for the staff members, which would require high dependence on social media and other media platforms.
- The danger of changing the judicial authority and spreading the phenomenon of rotation of posts between the justice system and the executive authority, and the transfer of employees to influential administrative positions in the judiciary and public prosecution for political and partisan considerations, in further entrenchment of what is known as hereditary succession and "mating" between the executive and judicial authorities. Naturally, this would leave the door wide open for corrupted judicial performance where the people have no access to justice. In this context, MUSAWA would not be able to resort to the judiciary, as a means of monitoring the proper implementation of the law, as much. In addition, this would influence MUSAWA's role in amending legislation and governmental decisions relating to justice. In this case, the sole alternative would be to shift to spreading community awareness in order to mobilize a wider range of the community with a view to achieving their demands. The said alternative would also include developing tools of control, lobbying, and advocacy to keep-up with the developments taking place in the external environment.

At internal level:

- MUSAWA might fail to secure a financial protection network to ensure its sustainability, which might influence MUSAWA's structure, hence obstructing MUSAWA's role as a leading organization in monitoring the performance of the justice system. Therefore, MUSAWA must consider a significant approach to address its vision and plans that are in line with the priorities of potential donors through keeping the leading role in the oversight and monitoring of the justice system with a focus on human rights and good governance angles and improving the scope of work to focus on

mobilizing the public to take part in this oversight role. The aspiration that would strengthen the impact of the watchdog role MUSAWA is taking.

- Given the general atmosphere of corruption that is manifested in the interference of political regimes and the political parties in the free will of members and allies, on the basis of mutual interest or perhaps blackmailing, accompanied by the failure of the authorities to effectively handle corruption in all its forms, there is a risk of potential members joining MUSAWA's team who might turn a blind eye to serious issues that must be addressed and reported and advocating for or against. MUSAWA, however, has developed an anti-corruption policy to monitor and take care of this critical issue. The team and members of BoD and GA attended a training session on this policy and the best methods to guarantee its application.

Annex (1): MUSAWA's awareness raising sessions and discussed topics

* R.C: Refugee Camp

| No. | Subject of the awareness raising session | Date | Governorate | Area | Direct Beneficiaries | | |
|-----|--|-----------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----|-------|
| | | | | | Women | Men | Total |
| ١ | Defining legal counseling as part of the mobile legal clinic program | 11-Jun-17 | Gaza | Al-Daraj | 35 | 0 | 35 |
| ٢ | Defining legal counseling as part of the mobile legal clinic program | 12-Jun-17 | North Gaza | Jabalya | 0 | 14 | 14 |
| ٣ | Activities of the mobile legal clinic | 10-Jul-17 | North Gaza | Jabalya | 12 | 3 | 15 |
| ٤ | Labor Law | 10-Jul-17 | Jericho | Aqbet Jaber R.C | 8 | 9 | 17 |
| ٥ | Inheritance | 11-Jul-17 | Tubas | Kardalah | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| ٦ | Labor Law | 12-Jul-17 | Hebron | Arab Al-Ramadin | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| ٧ | The legal problems of rights holders and their knowledge of their rights | 12-Jul-17 | North Gaza | Beit Hanoun | 17 | 2 | 19 |
| ٨ | Labor Law | 17-Jul-17 | Tulkarem | Tulkarem R.C | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| ٩ | Labor Law | 19-Jul-17 | Bethlehem | Al-Dheisheh R.C | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| ١٠ | Personal Status Law | 20-Jul-17 | Al-Wusta | Deir Al-Balah | 25 | 0 | 25 |
| ١١ | Marriage and Divorce | 23-Jul-17 | Al-Wusta | Deir Al-Balah | 35 | 20 | 55 |
| ١٢ | Labor Law | 24-Jul-17 | Salfit | Rafat | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| ١٣ | Labor Law | 26-Jul-17 | Hebron | Beit Awwa | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| ١٤ | Labor Law | 27-Jul-17 | Nablus | Ain Bait Al-Maa R.C | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| ١٥ | Labor Law | 31-Jul-17 | Hebron | Al-Aroub R.C | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| ١٦ | Labor Law | 1-Aug-17 | Jericho | Ain Al-Sultan R.C | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| ١٧ | Labor Law | 2-Aug-17 | Bethlehem | Al-Azza R.C | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| ١٨ | Labor Law | 8-Aug-17 | Jenin | Jenin R.C | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| ١٩ | Mental health session with Nasser Mattar | 9-Aug-17 | Jericho | Aqbet Jaber R.C | 12 | 13 | 25 |

| No. | Subject of the awareness raising session | Date | Governorate | Area | Direct Beneficiaries | | |
|-----|--|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----|-------|
| | | | | | Women | Men | Total |
| ٢٠ | Several Legal topics | 13-Aug-17 | Khan Younis | Khuza'a | 17 | 13 | 30 |
| ٢١ | Penal Procedure Law | 13-Aug-17 | Al-Wusta | Al-Zawaydeh | 30 | 0 | 30 |
| ٢٢ | Labor Law | 14-Aug-17 | Gaza | Al-Daraj | 14 | 0 | 14 |
| ٢٣ | Personal Status Law | 14-Aug-17 | Al-Wusta | Deir Al-Balah | 24 | 0 | 24 |
| ٢٤ | Land ownership | 15-Aug-17 | North Gaza | Beit Hanoun | 20 | 3 | 23 |
| ٢٥ | Personal Status Law | 16-Aug-17 | North Gaza | Beit Lahya | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| ٢٦ | Labor Law | 21-Aug-17 | Bethlehem | Ayda R.C | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| ٢٧ | Violations by law enforcement bodies | 22-Aug-17 | Al-Wusta | Al-Bassah | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| ٢٨ | Violence against women | 2-Oct-17 | Al-Wusta | Deir Al-Balah | 29 | 0 | 29 |
| ٢٩ | the Palestinian Law on the Rights of the Disabled | 8-Oct-17 | Gaza | Gaza | 35 | 0 | 35 |
| ٣٠ | Personal Status Law | 11-Oct-17 | North Gaza | Beit Hanoun | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| ٣١ | Engagement, Marriage and Divorce | 15-Oct-17 | Al-Wusta | Al-Zawaydeh | ٢٣ | ٠ | ٢٣ |
| ٣٢ | Elections law | 18-Oct-17 | Jericho | Aqbet Jaber R.C | 34 | 0 | 34 |
| ٣٣ | Women's rights according to Sharia | 26-Oct-17 | Tulkarem | Tulkarem R.C | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| ٣٤ | Women's rights according to Sharia | 31-Oct-17 | Bethlehem | Al-Azza R.C | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| ٣٥ | The freedom of expression | 1-Nov-17 | Gaza | Gaza | 0 | 40 | 40 |
| ٣٦ | Fair Trial Guarantees | 2-Nov-17 | Khan Younis | Khuza'a | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| ٣٧ | Positive parenting, in the sense of positive education | 16-Nov-17 | Al-Wusta | Deir Al-Balah | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| ٣٨ | Women's rights, CEDAW | 18-Nov-17 | Hebron | Raboud | 7 | 10 | 17 |
| ٣٩ | Women's rights according to Sharia | 21-Nov-17 | Jericho | Ain Al-Sultan | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| ٤٠ | Violence against women, CEDAW | 22-Nov-17 | Ramallah & Al-Bireh | Ain Areek | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| ٤١ | Digital extortion; a punishable crime | 22-Nov-17 | Al-Wusta | Wadi Al-Salqa | 17 | 0 | 17 |

| No. | Subject of the awareness raising session | Date | Governorate | Area | Direct Beneficiaries | | |
|-----|--|-----------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----|-------|
| | | | | | Women | Men | Total |
| ٤٢ | Children's rights | 23-Nov-17 | Ramallah & Al-Bireh | Kufr Ne'meh | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| ٤٣ | Violence against women | 23-Nov-17 | Khan Younis | East Khan Younis | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| ٤٤ | Violence against women, CEDAW | 25-Nov-17 | Hebrom | Al-Sima | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| ٤٥ | Decree-Law on Cybercrimes | 28-Nov-17 | Khan Younis | Khuza'a | 27 | 0 | 27 |
| ٤٦ | Children's rights | 28-Nov-17 | Ramallah & Al-Bireh | Al-Mughayyer | 0 | 35 | 35 |
| ٤٧ | the Palestinian Law on the Rights of the Disabled | 11-Dec-17 | North Gaza | Al-Shate' R.C | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| ٤٨ | Violence against women, CEDAW | 20-Dec-17 | Tulkarem | Tulkarem R.C | 12 | 2 | 14 |
| ٤٩ | Women in the light of society challenges and the law | 27-Dec-17 | Gaza | Gaza | 31 | 2 | 33 |

Annex (2): Participation in TV and radio interviews, radio episodes organized by MUSAWA, and the topics discussed in them

First: TV Interviews

| No. | TV Station | Topic | Date | Represented MUSAWA |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|-----------|--|
| ١ | Palestine Today TV | The position of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process, and MUSAWA's position on the draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court | 1-Feb-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٢ | Al-Kufiyyeh TV | The important role the PHRDs Network plays in protecting human rights defenders from violations and law infringements | 1-Feb-17 | Abd Al-Fattah Jaradeh, PHRDs member |
| ٣ | Al-Najah TV | Draft Decree-Law on Landlords and Tenants | 8-Feb-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٤ | Palestine Today TV | Draft Decree-Law on Landlords and Tenants | 9-Feb-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٥ | Al-Fajer TV | Draft Decree-Law on Landlords and Tenants/ interview over the phone | 9-Feb-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٦ | Palestine TV | The important role the PHRDs Network plays in protecting human rights defenders from violations and law infringements | 13-Feb-17 | Adv. Mahmoud Abdul Rahim and Ashraf Abu Hayyeh, and media figure Ansam Al-Qatta', PHRDs member |
| ٧ | Al-Najah TV | The important role the PHRDs Network plays in protecting human rights defenders from violations and law infringements | 20-Feb-17 | Adv. Wassim Anabtawi and Amr Al-Khatib, PHRDs members |
| ٨ | Al-Quds Educational Channel | First International Conference for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in Palestine | 23-Feb-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٩ | Hona Al-Quds TV | Equality before the law and the judiciary, fair trial guarantees and access to justice | 30-Mar-17 | Legal Monitoring officer Adv. Rula Moussa, and Lawyers for the Rule of Law members Adv. Marwan Baroud and Ameera Abu M'assib |
| ١٠ | Al-Najah TV | Key Individual Rights in the Two International Covenants | 19-Apr-17 | |
| ١١ | Al-Kufiyyeh TV | Fair trial guarantees: ambitions vs. reality | 29-Apr-17 | Training and Awareness Raising officer Adv. Momen Hattab, and Lawyers for the Rule of Law |

| No. | TV Station | Topic | Date | Represented MUSAWA |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|-----------|--|
| | | | | members Adv. Mohammad Quneitah and Shireen Sourani |
| ١٢ | Wattan TV | Decree-law on cybercrimes/ interview over the phone | | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٣ | Wattan TV | Amendment of the Judicial Authority Law | 22-Aug-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٤ | Al-Kitab TV | MUSAWA's complaints system, with specific focus on how MUSAWA's complaints system meets the needs of persons with disabilities | 10-Sep-17 | Legal Monitoring officer Adv. Rula Moussa |
| ١٥ | Al-Kufiyyeh TV | MUSAWA's complaints system, with specific focus on how MUSAWA's complaints system meets the needs of persons with disabilities | 17-Sep-17 | Adv. Fadi Qassas, Lawyers for the Rule of Law member |
| ١٦ | Wattan TV | The strike of the lawyers | 28-Nov-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٧ | Alfalstiniah TV | Eighth Palestine Justice Conference | 16-Dec-17 | Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayrah |
| ١٨ | Al-Quds Educational Channel | The anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Bill of Rights | 11-Dec-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |

Second: Radio Interviews

| No. | Radio Station | Topic | Date | Represented MUSAWA |
|-----|---------------|--|-----------|---|
| ١ | Ajyal FM | Draft Decree-Law on Landlords and Tenants | 8-Feb-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٢ | Alam-Hebron | the failure to implement court rulings and the relevant consequences, the mechanisms by which the relevant bodies are bound to implement judgments | 14-Feb-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٣ | Raya FM | Personal Status Law and the need to its amendment | 7-Mar-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٤ | Alam-Hebron | The status of the Bar Association in light of the resignation of a number of its Board members | 6-Apr-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |

| No. | Radio Station | Topic | Date | Represented MUSAWA |
|-----|------------------|---|-----------|---|
| ٥ | 24 FM | Decree-Law Amending the Penal Procedure Law, and the authority granted to the Public Prosecution regarding travel bans and pre-arrival screenings | 23-Apr-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٦ | Nissa' FM | MUSAWA's mobile legal clinic program | 11-Jun-17 | Legal Monitoring officer, Adv. Aya Dabbas |
| ٧ | Ajyal FM | Draft Decree-Law Amending the Judicial Authority Law | 14-Jun-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٨ | Alam-Hebron | Draft Decree-Law Amending the Judicial Authority Law | 17-Jun-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٩ | Alam-Hebron | The threats and consequences of the decision to block websites and the legal violations involved | 19-Jun-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٠ | Alam-Hebron | Decree-law on cybercrimes | 1-Jul-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١١ | Hawa Nablus | The reasons behind the increasing number of homicides from a legal perspective | 3-Jul-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٢ | Mawwal-Bethlehem | Decree-law on cybercrimes | 17-Jul-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٣ | Alam-Hebron | Draft Decree-Law Amending the Constitutional Court Law | 19-Aug-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٤ | Mawwal-Bethlehem | The amendment of the Judicial Authority Law | 22-Aug-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٥ | Raya FM | The views of CSOs regarding the Decree-Law on Cybercrime | 15-Sep-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٦ | Alam-Hebron | The unification of the Palestinian judiciary in light of the reconciliation | 21-Oct-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٧ | Mawwal-Bethlehem | The legal aid MUSAWA offers to marginalized groups | 18-Oct-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ١٨ | Mawwal-Bethlehem | The kidnapping of the lawyer Mohammad Hussein from the courtroom of Nablus's Magistrate Court | 11-Nov-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |

| No. | Radio Station | Topic | Date | Represented MUSAWA |
|-----|---------------|--|-----------|--|
| ١٩ | Alam-Hebron | The strike of the Bar Association, demanding that the perpetrators of the crime of kidnapping the lawyer be held accountable | 29-Nov-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٢٠ | Alam-Hebron | Draft decree-law on the Court of Local Councils | 25-Nov-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٢١ | Angham FM | Eighth Palestine Justice Conference | 14-Dec-17 | Legal Monitoring officer, Adv. Rula Moussa |
| ٢٢ | Ajyal FM | Eighth Palestine Justice Conference | 14-Dec-17 | Executive Manager Ahlam Tarayrah |

Third: Media Networks

| No. | Media Network | Topic | Date | Represented MUSAWA |
|-----|-----------------|--|----------|---|
| ١ | Al-Quds Net. | Draft Decree-Law on Landlords and Tenants | 8-Feb-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٢ | Ultra Palestine | Draft Decree-Law amending the Judicial Authority Law | | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |

Fourth: Radio Episodes organized by MUSAWA

| No. | Radio Station | Topic | Date | Guest Speaker |
|---|---------------|--|-----------|---|
| The Law under Spotlight Radio Program, with Hawa Nablus FM | | | | |
| ١ | Hawa Nablus | The importance of the Basic Law, and the rights and freedoms' relation to international treaties | 9-Jul-17 | General Manager, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi |
| ٢ | Hawa Nablus | The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | 23-Jul-17 | Legal monitoring officer, Adv. Aya Al-Dabbas |
| ٣ | Hawa Nablus | Cybercrimes | 16-Jul-17 | Member of MUSAWA's Board of Directors, head of the rights and freedoms committee, and former member of the Bar council, Adv. Ghassan Massad |
| ٤ | Hawa Nablus | The relation between the Bar and the judicial police and the Bar's role | 30-Jul-17 | Member of the Bar council, Adv. Mohammad Jarrar |

| No. | Radio Station | Topic | Date | Guest Speaker |
|-----|---------------|---|-----------|--|
| | | in protecting public rights and freedoms | | |
| ٥ | Hawa Nablus | Juveniles and women in the Labour Law | 6-Aug-17 | Adv. Nael Al-Houh, the Vice-Chairman of the Bar Association, the head of Al-Huriyyat committee in the Bar Council, and the Legal Advisor to the Federation of Trade Unions |
| ٦ | Hawa Nablus | Alimony fund: legal text vs. actual implementation | 21-Aug-17 | Adv. Maysam Samoudi, a regular and Sharia lawyer and an expert in alimony fund matters |
| ٧ | Hawa Nablus | The law on the implementation of judicial rulings; civil and Sharia | 28-Aug-17 | Adv. Mohammad Sakf Al-Hait |
| ٨ | Hawa Nablus | The protection of witnesses and informants of corruption crimes | 25-Sep-17 | Ms. Rasha Amarneh, the General Manager of legal affairs at the PACC |
| ٩ | Hawa Nablus | Divorce from a legal perspective | 2-Oct-17 | Ms. Fida' Daraghme, the Head of Family Guidance and Reform Department, and the first woman marriage officer |
| ١٠ | Hawa Nablus | Palestine joining the Interpol | 9-Oct-17 | Colonel Dr. Mahmoud Salah Al-Din, the Director of the Department of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Interior |
| ١١ | Hawa Nablus | People with disabilities from a legal perspective | 16-Oct-17 | Ms. Umayma Hilles, a teacher at Mustafa Sadiq Al-Rafii Secondary School for the Deaf in Gaza |
| ١٢ | Hawa Nablus | Palestine elections in light of the reconciliation | 23-Oct-17 | Dr. Talib Awad, an international expert in elections |
| ١٣ | Hawa Nablus | The Judicial Authority Law and job security | 30-Oct-17 | Judge Usama Al-Keilani, Supreme Court judge and Head of the Palestinian Judges Association |

| No. | Radio Station | Topic | Date | Guest Speaker |
|----------------------|---------------|---|-----------|--|
| ١٤ | Hawa Nablus | The amendments of the decree-law on cybercrime; meeting needs or keeping the crisis? | 6-Nov-17 | Mr. Ammar Jamous, a legal researcher at the Independent Commission of Human Rights |
| ١٥ | Hawa Nablus | The legality/illegality of arrest upon the request of the Prime Ministe | 13-Nov-17 | Adv. Raed Abdul Hameed, a former judge and a member of the Arab Organization of Young Lawyers- Palestine |
| ١٦ | Hawa Nablus | Violence against women | 20-Nov-17 | Adv. Rawia Abu-Zheiri, a member of the Bar Council and Head of the Bar's committee of women affairs |
| ١٧ | Hawa Nablus | Determinants of the relationship between the media and the executive authority | 27-Nov-17 | Ms. Naila Khalil, an instructor in the institute of media at Al-Quds University |
| ١٨ | Hawa Nablus | Insurance: law, reality, and ambition | 4-Dec-17 | Adv. Mousa Al-Sayyad, a former lecturer on insurance law at Birzeit University |
| ١٩ | Hawa Nablus | Rent in the eyes of the law | 11-Dec-17 | Adv. Ikhlas Assi, a lawyer and lecturer at the Modern University College |
| ٢٠ | Hawa Nablus | Ownership of property from a legal perspective | 18-Dec-17 | Adv. Maryam Salah, an attorney from Nablus |
| Miscellaneous | | | | |
| ١ | Gaza FM | First International Conference for Human Rights Defenders in Palestine | 30-Jan-17 | Lawyers Mohammad Hattab and Khadija Mattar, PHRDs members |
| ٢ | Gaza FM | The important role the Network plays in protecting human rights defenders from violations and law infringements | 1-Feb-17 | Mustafa Abu-Zir and Hala Hassaein, PHRDs members |
| ٣ | Ajyal FM | The important role the Network plays in protecting human rights defenders from violations and law infringements | 8-Feb-17 | Ms. Iman Fayyad, PHRDs Network member |
| ٤ | Sawt Al-Azhar | Labor Rights in the Palestinian Labor Law | 20-Mar-17 | Adv. Mohammad Al-Loh, PHRDs member, Lawyers for the Rule of Law member |

| No. | Radio Station | Topic | Date | Guest Speaker |
|-----|---------------|---|-----------|--|
| ٥ | Gaza FM | Fair Trial Guarantees | 23-Mar-17 | Adv. Haala Hasanein, Lawyers for the Rule of Law member |
| ٦ | Ajyal FM | Key Individual Rights in the Two International Covenants | 28-Mar-17 | Lawyers Anwar Abu-Adas and Rasha Suboh, Lawyers for the Rule of Law members |
| ٧ | Gaza FM | Fair Trial Guarantees | 18-Apr-17 | Adv. Maysa' Shaheen, Lawyers for the Rule of Law member |
| ٨ | Sawt Al-Azhar | MUSAWA's voluntary groups and their most important activities and accomplishments | 21-Aug-17 | Adv. Mohammad Al-Hattab, Lawyers for the Rule of Law member |
| ٩ | Nissa' FM | The feminist vision of the Palestinian constitution draft | 30-Apr-17 | Mr. Ibrahim Al-Barghouti, Ms. Leena Abdul Hadi, and Judge Iman Nasser Al-Din |
| ١٠ | Gaza FM | Raising legal awareness among all segments of society | | Adv. Mohammad Hattab, Lawyers for the Rule of Law member |

Annex (3): Legal Memos, Position Papers and Statements issued by MUSAWA during 2017

| # | Title of the Memo/ Position Paper/ Statement | Classification | Receiving party | Date of Issuance | Link to MUSAWA's website |
|---|---|----------------|--|------------------|---|
| 1 | To give MUSAWA the chance to form an opinion concerning the draft Decree-Law on the High Criminal Court, proposed by the Council of Ministers | Memo | Mr. President | 12-01-17 | |
| 2 | Draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court | Position Paper | | ٢٠-٠١-١٧ | http://www.musawa.ps/post/position-paper-draft-decree-law-on-high-criminal-court.html |
| 3 | Deprivation of Fair Trial Guarantees During Detention/ Gaza | Memo | Public Prosecutor, Dr. Ismail Jaber | 23-01-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/deprivation-of-fair-trial-guarantees-during-detention.html |
| 4 | Violation of Shari'a Court Procedures/ Gaza | Memo | Head of Higher Shari'a Court Council/ Head of Supreme Shari'a Court, Dr. Hassan Al-Joujou, | 23-01-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/violation-of-shari-a-court-procedures.html |
| 5 | Compromising Fair Trial Guarantees – Based on a written complaint | Memo | Public Prosecutor Dr. Ahmad Barrak | ٢٩-٠١-١٧ | http://www.musawa.ps/post/compromising-fair-trial-guarantees.html |
| 6 | Equality before the Law, and the Violation of a Constitutional Right – Based on a written complaint | Memo | The Prime Minister – Minister of Interior Dr. Rami Al-Hamdallah | ٢٩-٠١-١٧ | http://www.musawa.ps/post/equality-before-the-law-and-the-violation-of-a-constitutional-right.html |
| 7 | Decree-Law High Criminal Court, by the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process | Memo | Mr. President, by Legal Advisor Hassan Al-Ouri | 01-02-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/uploads/6fa3e01e43b6866e6fa7e67e01efcfc2.pdf |
| 8 | A Memo Regarding the Detention of Sami Saeed Abed Al-Saa'i | Memo | Public Prosecutor Dr. Ahmad Barrak | ١٢-٠٢-١٧ | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-regarding-the-detention-of-sami-saeed-abed-al-saa-i-tulqarm.html |
| 9 | MUSAWA Asks for Immediate Action by Attorney General | Memo | Attorney General Dr. Ahmad Barrak | 19-02-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/musawa-asks-for-immediate-action-by-attorney-general |

| # | Title of the Memo/ Postion Paper/ Statement | Classification | Receiving party | Date of Issuance | Link to MUSAWA's website |
|----|---|----------------|--|------------------|---|
| | Regarding the Detention of Sami Al-Saa'i | | | | regarding-the-detention-of-sami-al-saa-i.html |
| 10 | Violating Shari'a Court Procedures – Based on a written complaint/ Gaza | Memo | Head of Higher Shari'a Court Council/ Head of Supreme Shari'a Court, Dr. Hassan Al-Joujou | ٢٠-٠٢-١٧ | http://www.musawa.ps/post/violating-shari-a-court-procedures.html |
| 11 | MUSAWA Demands Dropping of Draft Decree-Law Amending the Supreme Constitutional Court Law | Memo | Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah | 13-03-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/musawa-demands-dropping-of-draft-decree-law-amending-the-supreme-constitutional-court-law.html |
| 12 | Cancellation of March 8th International Women's Day Holiday in Gaza | Memo | Head of the Supreme Administrative Committee/ Gaza Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance Youssef Al-Kayali | 07-03-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/cancellation-of-march-8th-international-women-s-day-holiday.html |
| 13 | Excessive Use of Force to Disperse HRDs Peaceful Protest | Memo | Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah | 13-03-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/excessive-use-of-force-to-disperse-hrds-peaceful-protest.html |
| 14 | Violation of a Lawyer's Right to Contact their Client – Based on a written complaint | Memo | Attorney General Mr. Ahmad Barrak | ١٥-٠٣-١٧ | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-to-attorney-general-violation-of-a-lawyer-s-right-to-contact-their-client.html |
| 15 | Issuance of the Palestinian official gazette contrary to the law | Memo | Head of the Advisory and Legislation Bureau Advisor Kamal Ibrahim | 22-03-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-on-the-issuance-of-the-palestinian-gazette-130-contrary-to-the-law.html |
| 16 | Failure to Implement Judicial Decisions – Based on a written complaint | Memo | Attorney General Dr. Ahmad Barrak | 23-04-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/legal-memo-failure-to-implement-judicial-decisions.html |

| # | Title of the Memo/ Postion Paper/ Statement | Classification | Receiving party | Date of Issuance | Link to MUSAWA's website |
|----|--|----------------|--|------------------|---|
| 17 | A Statement by CSOs: In Defense of the Rule of Law and the Freedom of Expression | Statement | High Judicial Council, Attorney General, legal advisor to Mr. President, Minister of Justice, a number of judges | 09-05-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-statement-by-csos-in-defense-of-the-rule-of-law-and-the-freedom-of-expression.html |
| 18 | MUSAWA Demands Cancellation of Mouth-Muzzling Circulars for Judges and Judicial Employees | Memo | Head and Members of the High Judicial Council | 15-05-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/musawa-demands-cancellation-of-mouth-muzzling-circulars-for-judges-and-judicial-employees.html |
| 19 | MUSAWA Demands the Abolition of Death Penalties | Statement | | 21-05-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/musawa-demands-the-abolition-of-death-penalties.html |
| 20 | the decision not to proceed with lawyers' files unless they are registered and their Value Added Tax obligations are fulfilled, issued by the General Directorate of Customs, Excise and VAT | Memo | Bar Association | 06-06-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-to-pba-chairman-and-members-of-pba-council.html |
| 21 | The draft decree-law amending the Judicial Authority Law, proposed by his Excellency the Minister of Justice | Memo | Prime Minister, Affiliated Ministers; By Minister of Justice | 15-06-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-on-the-draft-decree-law-amending-the-judicial-authority-law.html |
| 22 | A Memo on the Violation of the Judicial Code of Conduct – Based on a written complaint | Memo | Judicial Inspection Department; Supreme Judge Department | 18-06-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-on-the-violation-of-the-judicial-code-of-conduct.html |
| 23 | The Draft Decree-Law on the Judicial Body of the Palestinian Security Forces No. () of 2017 | Memo | Prime Minister By the Minister of Justice | ٢٢-٠٦-١٧ | http://www.musawa.ps/post/the-draft-decree-law-on-the-judicial-body-of-the-palestinian-security-forces-no.-of-2017.html |
| 24 | the violation of judicial and administrative rules of conduct – Based on a written complaint/Gaza | Memo | Head and Members of the High Judicial Council | 02-07-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-on-the-violation-of-administrative-and-judicial-rules-of-conduct.html |

| # | Title of the Memo/ Postion Paper/ Statement | Classification | Receiving party | Date of Issuance | Link to MUSAWA's website |
|----|---|----------------|---|------------------|---|
| 25 | MUSAWA's Vision on the Reform of the Justice System "The Judiciary, Constitutional Court, and Public Prosecution" | Statement | Council of Ministers, Mr. Presiden, legal advisor to Mr. President, Minister of Justice, PACC, Bar Association, High Judicial Council, Representatives of parliamentary blocs | ٢٢-٠٦-١٧ | http://www.musawa.ps/post/musawa-s-vision-on-the-reform-of-the-justice-system-the-judiciary-constitutional-court-and-public-prosecution.html |
| 26 | violating the code of ethics of the legal profession/Gaza | Memo | Chairman and Members of the Bar Council | 17-07-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-on-violating-the-code-of-ethics-of-the-legal-profession.html |
| 27 | MUSAWA's Position on the Draft Decree-Law on the Early Retirement of Public Employees for 2017 | Memo | The Legal Adviser to Mr. President Minister Hasan Al-Ouri | 01-08-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/musawa-s-position-on-the-draft-decree-law-on-the-early-retirement-of-public-employees-for-2017.html |
| 28 | the draft decree-law on the High Criminal Court for 2017 – A memo by the Civil Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process | Memo | The Legal Adviser to Mr. President Minister Hasan Al-Ouri | 15-08-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/demanding-mr.-president-not-to-issue-the-draft-decree-law-for-2017-on-the-high-criminal-court.html |
| 29 | Violation of the Code of Ethics of the Legal Profession/ Gaza | Memo | Vice-Chairman and Members of the Bar Association Council | 16-08-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-on-the-violation-of-the-code-of-ethics-of-the-legal-profession.html |
| 30 | The Performance of the Bar Association Council in Defending the Dignity of its Members and Meeting their Needs/ Gaza | Memo | Vice-Chairman and Members of the Bar Association Council | 17-08-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/the-performance-of-the-bar-association-council-in-defending-the-dignity-of-its-members-and-meeting-their-needs.html |
| 31 | The Failure to Implement a Judicial Ruling in Violation of the Basic Law, Judicial Authority Law, and Anti-Corruption Law | Memo | Chief of the Anti-Corruption Commission Mr. Rafiq Al-Natsheh | 22-08-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/the-failure-to-implement-a-judicial-ruling-in-violation-of-the-basic-law-judicial-authority-law-and-anti-corruption-law.html |

| # | Title of the Memo/ Postion Paper/ Statement | Classification | Receiving party | Date of Issuance | Link to MUSAWA's website |
|----|--|----------------|--|------------------|---|
| 32 | Termination of an employee's contract for reporting corruption cases | Memo | Chief of the Anti-Corruption Commission Mr. Rafiq Al-Natsheh | 20-08-17 | The memo was not published to protect the complainant |
| 33 | Fair Trial Guarantees/ Gaza | Memo | Attorney General Dia' Al-Din Al-Madhoun | 27-08-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-to-the-attorney-general-in-gaza-fair-trial-guarantees.html |
| 34 | Arbitrary Detention/ Gaza | Memo | Attorney General Dia' Al-Din Al-Madhoun | 27-08-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-to-the-attorney-general-in-gaza-arbitrary-detention.html |
| 35 | Adapting Public and Private Spaces for Persons with Special Needs/ Gaza | Memo | Head and Members of the Administrative Committee | 30-08-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-dapting-public-and-private-spaces-for-persons-with-special-needs.html |
| 36 | Allegations of Torture and Violating Fair Trial Guarantees/ Gaza | Memo | Attorney General Dia' Al-Din Al-Madhoun | 10-09-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-on-allegations-of-torture-and-violating-fair-trial-guarantees.html |
| 37 | Violation of the Principle of Equality in Occupying Public Positions/ Gaza | Memo | Head and Members of the Administrative Committee | 10-09-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-on-the-violation-of-the-principle-of-equality-in-occupying-public-positions.html |
| 38 | Legal memo regarding the Decree-Law No. (16) for 2017 on Cybercrimes, presented by the ICHR and member CSOs in the joint committee for the review of the Decree-Law on Cybercrimes, established by the PLO Department of Culture and Information | Memo | Dr. Hanan Ashrawi Head of the PLO Department of Culture and Information | 17-09-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-legal-memo-to-dr-hanan-ashrawi-regarding-decree-law-no.-16-for-2017-on-cybercrimes.html |
| 39 | To Prevent any Further Deviation and Loss of Direction: standing up to deficiencies and eliminating the reasons for the breakdown of trust, followed | Position Paper | | 17-09-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/p-osition-paper-on-the-crumbling-trust-in-the-justice-system-serious-consideration-of-reform.html |

| # | Title of the Memo/ Postion Paper/ Statement | Classification | Receiving party | Date of Issuance | Link to MUSAWA's website |
|----|---|----------------|--|------------------|---|
| | or accompanied by a serious consideration of reform | | | | |
| 40 | Demands Rise for Establishing Impartial Committee to Investigate the Death Incidents of Gaza's Detention Centers | Position Paper | | 20-09-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/demands-rise-for-establishing-impartial-committee-to-investigate-the-death-incidents-of-gaza-s-detention-centers.html |
| 41 | Saying NO to sex-based discrimination in senior positions in the judiciary: Women have the right to hold public office and senior positions of all levels | Position Paper | | 05-10-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/position-paper-saying-no-to-sex-based-discrimination-in-senior-positions-in-the-judiciary.html |
| 42 | Discrimination against Women in Holding Public Office/ Gaza | Memo | Dr. Ahmad Bahar | 05-10-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-legal-memo-on-discrimination-against-women-in-holding-public-office.html |
| 43 | Destroying the cultural heritage: the perpetrators shall be held accountable – In cooperation with CSOs | Position Paper | | 19-10-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/destroying-the-cultural-heritage-the-perpetrators-shall-be-held-accountable.html |
| 44 | Disrupting the Implementation of Judicial Rulings and Overstepping Judicial Powers/ Gaza | Memo | Attorney General Dia' Al-Din Al-Madhoun | 23-10-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-on-disrupting-the-implementation-of-judicial-rulings-and-overstepping-judicial-powers.html |
| 45 | Taking the Law into One's Own Hands and Violating the Right to Access to Justice/ Gaza | Memo | Attorney General Dia' Al-Din Al-Madhoun | 23-10-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-on-taking-the-law-into-one-s-own-hands-and-violating-the-right-to-access-to-justice.html |
| 46 | Unlawful Detention, Violation of the Detainee's Right to Contact his Family | Memo | Head of the Military Justice Commission, Major General Ismail Farraj | 02-11-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-to-major-general-ismail-farraj-unlawful-detention-violation-of-the-detainee-s-right-to-contact-his-family.html |

| # | Title of the Memo/ Position Paper/ Statement | Classification | Receiving party | Date of Issuance | Link to MUSAWA's website |
|----|---|----------------|--|------------------|---|
| 47 | Dissolving the joint security committee, repealing its powers, and closing its detention centers are urgent requirements for promoting the rule of law and preserving the human dignity of the Palestinian people | Position Paper | | 09-11-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/dissolving-the-security-committee-an-urgent-need-that-bears-no-delay.html |
| 48 | The Legal Approach to Ending Arbitrary Detention: Dissolving the Joint Security Committee | Position Paper | | 12-11-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/the-legal-approach-to-ending-arbitrary-detention-dissolving-the-joint-security-committee.html |
| 49 | Calling for High Judicial Council to Drop Case Against Judges | Position Paper | | 23-11-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/position-paper-calling-for-high-judicial-council-to-drop-case-against-judges.html |
| 50 | The decision issued by the Deputy General Manager of Publications and Media Affairs, demanding "A7la FM" radio station to appoint a new director as an alternative for the media professional Reem Al-Omari within a period of two week | Memo | Deputy General of the Palestinian Ministry of Information Dr. Mahmoud Khalifeh | 26-11-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/memo-on-the-decision-demanding-a7la-fm-to-appoint-new-manager-as-an-alternative-for-journalist-reem-al-omari.html |
| 51 | Demanding that the Military Prosecution be requested to initiate immediate investigation, arrest and referral of procedures with the accused in the crime of kidnapping the lawyer Mohammad Hussein and overstepping the authority of Nablus Magistrate Court | Memo | Head of the Military Justice Commission – President of the High Military Court Major General Ismail Farraj | 28-11-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/the-military-prosecution-coming-to-the-government-s-rescue-memo-to-major-general-ismail-faraj-on-the-kidnapping-of-lawyer-mohammad-husein.html |
| 52 | Violating the Rule of Law and Overstepping Authorities/ Gaza | Memo | Attorney General Dia' Al-Din Al-Madhoun | ١٢-١٢-١٧ | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-memo-to-the-attorney-general-gaza-violating-the-rule-of-law-and-overstepping-authorities.html |

| # | Title of the Memo/ Postion Paper/ Statement | Classification | Receiving party | Date of Issuance | Link to MUSAWA's website |
|----|--|----------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| ٥٣ | A Letter to President: Stop Legislation Violating Palestinian Human Rights | Statement | Mr. President | 27-12-17 | http://www.musawa.ps/post/a-letter-to-president-stop-legislation-violating-palestinian-human-rights.html |

Annex (4): News and Correspondences on MUSAWA's Periodic Publications



From "Eye on Justice"

إصدارات "مساواة" في مكتبة الكونغرس الأمريكي وجامعة هارفارد وكاليفورنيا

حضرة السادة - المركز الفلسطيني لاستقلال المحاماة والقضاء "مساواة" المحترمين،

تحية طيبة وبعد،

بالنيابة عن مكتبة الكونغرس ومكتبة جامعة هارفارد وجامعة كاليفورنيا في لوس انجليس، وبالأصالة عن نفسي، أقدم جزيل الشكر والاحترام والتقدير لمؤسستكم الموقرة للاستمرار بإهداء إصداراتكم "عين على العدالة" و"العدالة والقانون" بالإضافة إلى إصدارات أخرى لهذه المكتبات الثلاث منذ صدور أعدادها الأولى.

مع تحياتي وتقديري،

ماري فاشه

٢٠٠٨/١٢/٨

Annex (5): Correspondences on the 8th of March Holiday

وكانت «مساواة» قد وجهت بتاريخ ٢٠١١/٣/١ مذكرة خطية الى المستشار القانوني للسيد الرئيس الأستاذ حسن العوري جاء فيها:

Palestinian Center for the Independence of
the Judiciary and the Legal Profession
"MUSAWA"



المركز الفلسطيني لاستقلال المحاماة والقضاء
"مساواة"

**معالي المستشار القانوني لفخامة الرئيس
الأستاذ حسن العوري المحترم**

الموضوع: المرسوم الرئاسي رقم 13 / 2006 المنشور في الوقائع الفلسطينية عدد 64 بتاريخ 2006/5/31 والقاضي باعتبار الثامن من آذار يوم عطلة رسمية مدفوعة الأجر للنساء العاملات في الوظيفة العمومية

2011/3/1

تحية واحتراما وبعد،،،

عطفا على المذكرة المرسلة من مركزنا إلى معاليكم العام الماضي، والمطالبة باعتبار يوم الثامن من آذار يوم عطلة رسمية مدفوعة الأجر للنساء العاملات في الوظيفة العمومية، والانصياع للمرسوم الرئاسي المذكور أعلاه، وعلى الرغم من تأكيدات ديوان الرئاسة، وديوان الفتوى والتشريع بأن المرسوم المذكور مازال ساري المفعول وواجب النفاذ، إلا أن الوزارات والدوائر الحكومية لم تلتزم به العام الماضي، الأمر الذي يعد خروجاً على أحكام المرسوم، ومما يحق للنساء العاملات في الوظيفة العامة مادياً ومعنوياً.

لذا فإننا نأمل من معاليكم اتخاذ المقتضى القانوني اللازم بما يضمن وضع هذا المرسوم موضع التطبيق والتنفيذ وذلك باعتبار يوم الثامن من آذار للعام 2011 يوم عطلة رسمية للنساء العاملات في الوظيفة العمومية أو إضافة اجرة إلى راتبين الشهري حال قيامهن بالعمل في ذلك اليوم، والإيعاز للحكومة وجميع التوائر الرسمية بضرورة الانصياع لأحكام المرسوم الرئاسي ووضعه موضع التنفيذ الفوري.

كلنا أمل بالاستجابة لمذكرتنا هذه وتنفيذ المرسوم الرئاسي من قبل كافة الجهات الرسمية المخاطبة بمقتضاه حسب الأصول.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام والتقدير



الرئيس الفلسطيني لاستقلال المحاماة والقضاء
مساواة

البيرة - البلوق، شارع المحاكم، مقابل منزل شقائق النعمان
Al Biereh-Al Balou'a-the court str. In front of (shaqa'eq Anouman flowers shop)
هاتف: 00970 2 2424870 - فاكس: 00970 2 2424866
musawa@musawa.ps - www.musawa.ps

كما وجهت مذكرة مماثلة وبذات التاريخ الى دولة رئيس الوزراء د. سلام فياض.

«مساواة» تهنيء النساء العاملات بهذا الانجاز النهم.

Palestine Liberation Organization

Palestine National Authority

Legal Advisor



منظمة التحرير الفلسطينية

السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية

الرئاسة

المستشار القانوني

الأخوة/ المركز الفلسطيني لاستقلال المحاماة والقضاء 'مساواة'

تحية طيبة وبعد ،

الموضوع: المرسوم الرئاسي رقم (13) لسنة 2006م.

نهدىكم أطيب التحيات، وبالإشارة إلى الموضوع أعلاه، ولاحقاً لكتابكم بتاريخ 2011/03/01م، نفيدكم بأنه وبعد عرض الموضوع على سيادة الرئيس حفظه الله ورعاه أصدر توجيهاته للجهات ذات الاختصاص لتنفيذ المرسوم رقم (13) لسنة 2006م بشأن إعلان يوم الثامن من آذار يوم عطلة للتعبئة مدفوعة الأجر في المؤسسات الحكومية والهيئات المحلية والمؤسسات الخاصة بمناسبة الاحتفال بعيد المرأة العالمي.

واقبلوا فائق الاحترام والتقدير، ، ،

رام الله في: 2011/03/07م

الوزير/ حسن العوري

المستشار القانوني لميادة الرئيس

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
and the Legal Profession - (MUSAWA)**

**Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
and the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

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Independent Auditor's Report

**To the Board of Directors of
The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
and the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (Not for Profit Organization)**, which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2017, statement of activities, statement of changes in net assets and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (Not for Profit Organization)** as of December 31, 2017, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement* section of our report. We are independent of MUSAWA in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statement in areas under the jurisdiction of Palestinian Authority, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing MUSAWA's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate MUSAWA or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the MUSAWA's financial reporting process.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (Continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA's, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also,

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risk, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than the one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omission, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the MUSAWA's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosure are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause MUSAWA to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (Continued)

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Saba & Co.
Saba & Co.

Ramallah - Palestine
April 16, 2018



**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession - (MUSAWA)**

Statement - A

**Statement of Financial Position
As of 31 December 2017**

| | Note | 2017 U.S. \$ | 2016 U.S. \$ |
|--|------|-----------------|------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash on Hand and at Banks | 4 | 110,207 | 59,323 |
| Pledges Receivable | 5 | 726,000 | 1,161,106 |
| Prepaid Rent Expenses | 6 | 8,967 | 8,967 |
| Total Current Assets | | 845,174 | 1,229,396 |
| Properties and Equipment, Net | 7 | 24,975 | 30,482 |
| Total Assets | | 870,149 | 1,259,878 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Payables and Accruals | 8 | 7,690 | 10,289 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 7,690 | 10,289 |
| Reserves for Employees' End of Service Indemnity | 9 | 28,421 | 11,777 |
| Total Liabilities | | 36,111 | 22,066 |
| Net Assets | | | |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | | (2,766) | (772) |
| Investment in Properties and Equipment | | 24,975 | 30,482 |
| Temporarily Restricted Net Assets | 14 | 811,829 | 1,208,102 |
| Total Net Assets | | 834,038 | 1,237,812 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | | 870,149 | 1,259,878 |

See Notes to Financial Statements

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession - (MUSAWA)**

Statement - B

**Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended 31 December 2017**

| | | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Total | |
|--|--------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Note | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | 2017 U.S. \$ | 2016 U.S. \$ |
| Operating Revenues | | | | | |
| Grants and Donations | 14 | - | 60,000 | 60,000 | 1,560,000 |
| Other Revenues | | 3,936 | - | 3,936 | 4,675 |
| Total Operating Revenues | | 3,936 | 60,000 | 63,936 | 1,564,675 |
| Net Assets Released from Restrictions | 14 | 439,651 | (439,651) | - | - |
| | | 443,587 | (379,651) | 63,936 | 1,564,675 |
| Program expenses | | | | | |
| Program Expenses | 11, 13 | 217,977 | - | 217,977 | 239,988 |
| Total Program Expenses | | 217,977 | - | 217,977 | 239,988 |
| Support Expenses | | | | | |
| General and Administrative Expenses | 10, 13 | 232,692 | - | 232,692 | 232,608 |
| Depreciation | 6 | 7,789 | - | 7,789 | 9,848 |
| (Gain) Loss from Currency Fluctuations | | (7,370) | 6,164 | (1,206) | 348 |
| Total Support Expenses | | 233,111 | 6,164 | 239,275 | 242,804 |
| Written Off | | - | 10,458 | 10,458 | - |
| Total Expenses | | 451,088 | 16,622 | 467,710 | 482,792 |
| Net (Decrease)/Increase in Net Assets During the Year | | (7,501) | (396,273) | (403,774) | 1,081,883 |

See Notes to Financial Statements

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

Statement - C

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets
For the Year Ended 31 December 2017**

| | Unrestricted Net Assets | Temporarily Restricted Net Assets | Investment in Properties and Equipment | Total |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| 31 December 2017 | | | | |
| Net Assets at beginning of year | (772) | 1,208,102 | 30,482 | 1,237,812 |
| Change in net assets during the year | (7,501) | (396,273) | - | (403,774) |
| Properties and equipment additions, net of depreciation and disposals | 5,507 | - | (5,507) | - |
| Net Assets as at 31 December 2017 | <u>(2,766)</u> | <u>811,829</u> | <u>24,975</u> | <u>834,038</u> |
| 31 December 2016 | | | | |
| Net Assets at beginning of year | 19,946 | 102,858 | 40,106 | 162,910 |
| Change in net assets during the year | (23,361) | 1,105,244 | - | 1,081,883 |
| Prior Year Adjustment for Depreciation | - | - | (6,981) | (6,981) |
| Properties and equipment additions, net of depreciation | 2,643 | - | (2,643) | - |
| Net Assets as at 31 December 2016 | <u>(772)</u> | <u>1,208,102</u> | <u>30,482</u> | <u>1,237,812</u> |

See Notes to Financial Statements

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession - (MUSAWA)**

Statement - D

**Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 December 2017**

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | | |
| Grants Received from Contributors | 487,174 | 568,341 |
| Other Revenues | 3,936 | 4,675 |
| Cash Paid to Employees and Suppliers | (437,155) | (591,925) |
| Cash Generated from (Used in) Operating Activities | 53,955 | (18,909) |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities | | |
| Procurement of Properties and Equipment | (3,071) | (7,205) |
| Cash (Used in) Investing Activities | (3,071) | (7,205) |
| Increase (Decrease) in Cash During the Year | 50,884 | (26,114) |
| Cash on Hand and at Banks at Beginning of Year | 59,323 | 85,437 |
| Cash on Hand and at Banks at End of Year | 110,207 | 59,323 |
| Adjustments to Reconcile Changes in Net Assets to Net Cash Generated from (Used in) Operating Activities | | |
| Changes in Net Assets | (403,774) | 1,074,902 |
| Depreciation | 7,789 | 9,848 |
| Loss from disposals of Fixed Assets | 789 | - |
| Prior Years Adjustment of Depreciation | - | 6,981 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) in Reserves for Employees' End of Service Indemnity | 16,644 | (80,064) |
| (Decrease) in Payables and Accruals | (2,599) | (29,278) |
| Decrease (Increase) in Pledges Receivables | 435,106 | (993,031) |
| (Increase) in Prepaid Expenses | - | (8,267) |
| Net Cash Generated from (Used in) Operating Activities | 53,955 | (18,909) |

See Notes to Financial Statements

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

1. Organization

The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (MUSAWA) is an independent civil society Not-For-Profit organization established on March 18, 2002 as part of an initiative by lawyers, former judges, and human rights advocates devoted to guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession through: monitoring and documenting violations; and treating the social, cultural, economic, and political obstacles that hinder the proper implementation of the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession.

The board of trustees has approved the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 in its regular meeting held on March 28, 2018.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.1 Adoption of new and revised International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)

In the current year, The Center's management considered all new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) of IASB, relevant to its activities, that were issued and effective for annual reporting periods ending on 31 December 2017. The application of the new standards and interpretations has no effect on the financial position or the results of operations of the center.

2.2 Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The net assets of MUSAWA and changes therein are classified and reported in accordance with United States of America Statements on Financial Accounting Standards "Financial Statements of Not-for-profit Organizations", which establish standards for external financial reporting by not-for-profit organizations.

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies "Continued"

2.2 Preparation of Financial Statements "Continued"

Under the provision of these standards, net assets and revenues, expenses, gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. In order to ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of the available resources, the accounts are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Accordingly, net assets of MUSAWA and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

- **Unrestricted net assets** - Net assets whose use by MUSAWA is not subject to donor-imposed restrictions.
- **Temporary restricted net assets** - Net assets whose use by the Center is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that either expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled and released by actions of MUSAWA pursuant to those donor-imposed stipulations.
- **Investment in property and equipment** – Represents funds invested in property and equipment from unrestricted net assets.
- **Revenues** are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets unless their use is limited by donor-imposed restrictions. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are classified as unrestricted net assets and reported as net assets released from restrictions.

The statement of activities is a statement of financial activities related to the current year, it is not a performance measure and does not purport to present the net income or loss for the year as would a statement of income for a business enterprise.

The statement of activities includes certain prior-year summarized comparative in total but not by net asset class, i.e. in respect to restrictions and accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the Centers's financial statements for the prior year from which the summarized information was derived in order to have sufficient details in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards.

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies "Continued"

2.3 Contributions

Unconditional Grants and Grants with stipulations that are expected to be met are recognised as increases in temporarily restricted funds and are released to unrestricted funds over the periods necessary to match them with the costs for which they are intended to compensate, on a systematic basis.

Amounts received under conditional grants whose conditions are based on future events and actions are deferred and presented under current liabilities and are taken to the statement of activities when the related conditions are met.

Grants that are receivable as compensation for expenses or losses already incurred or for the purpose of giving immediate financial support to MUSAWA with no future related costs are recognised in the statement of activities in the period in which they become receivable.

Grants whose primary condition is that MUSAWA should purchase, construct or otherwise acquire non-current assets are recognised under temporarily restricted funds and released to unrestricted funds when the assets are acquired.

Government grants are not recognized until there is reasonable assurance that MUSAWA will comply with the conditions attaching to them and that the grants will be received.

2.4 Foreign Currency Transactions

The financial statements are presented in U.S. Dollar being the currency of the primary economic environment in which MUSAWA operates (its functional currency).

In preparing the financial statements, transactions in currencies other than the functional currency (foreign currencies) are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the date of the transactions. At the date of the financial statements, monetary items denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing at that date. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are not retranslated.

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies "Continued"

2.4 Foreign Currency Transactions "Continued"

- Transactions which are expressed or denominated in other currencies are converted into U.S. Dollar equivalent using the exchange rate prevailing on the date of the transaction.
- Assets and liabilities which are denominated or expressed in other currencies are presented at their USD equivalent using the exchange rate prevailing on December 31, 2017 as the following:

| | December 31, | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | 2017 | 2016 |
| | U.S \$ | U.S \$ |
| Israeli Shekel | 0.288 | 0.259 |
| EURO | 1.183 | 1.057 |

- All other assets and liabilities are presented in their USD equivalent at their historical values.
- Exchange differences arising from the translation of local currency balances is charged to the statement of activities.

2.5 Properties and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost net of accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets. The yearly depreciation rates are as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Computer System | 20% |
| Office Furniture | 7% |
| Office Equipment | 15% |
| Vehicles | 15% |

When the expected recoverable amount is less than the net book value, the property, plant and equipment amount is reduced to the lower of cost or net realizable value and the difference (if any) is included in the statement of activities.

The useful lives of property, plant and equipment are reviewed at the end of each year. In case the expected useful life is different from what was determined before, the change in estimate is recorded in the following years, being as a change in estimate.

Property, plant and equipment are disposed of when there is no expected future benefit from the use of that asset.

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies "Continued"

2.6 Severance Pay

The Center provides for severance pay by accruing for one month compensation for each year of service based on the last salary paid during the year.

2.7 Functional Expenses

The Center allocates its expenses on a functional basis among its various programmes and general administration. Expenses that can be identified with a specific program or administration are charged directly. Other expenses that are common to several functions are allocated between functions based on the best estimates and judgment of management.

3. Estimates and Assumptions

The financial statements include certain estimates and assumptions made by management relating to reporting of assets, liabilities, at the statement of financial position date, and the reporting of revenue, expenses, gains, and losses during the year. Actual results may differ from those estimates adopted by the Centre's management. Estimates used in the preparation of the financial statements are the useful lives of property, plant and equipment and all other provisions.

4. Cash on Hand and at Banks

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Cash on hand | 1,298 | 1,719 |
| Deposits with banks | 108,909 | 57,604 |
| | <u>110,207</u> | <u>59,323</u> |

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

5. Pledges Receivable

| | Balance as of January 1, 2017 | Additions During the Year | Received During the Year | Currency Variances | Written off | Balance as of December 31, 2017 |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands | 1,130,025 | - | (404,000) | - | (25) | 726,000 |
| European Commission - Human Rights Defenders | 31,081 | - | (23,174) | 2,551 | (10,458) | - |
| UNDP | - | 60,000 | (60,000) | - | - | - |
| Total | 1,161,106 | 60,000 | (487,174) | 2,551 | (10,483) | 726,000 |

6. Prepaid Expenses and Other Debit Balances

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Prepaid Rent | 8,967 | 8,967 |
| | <u>8,967</u> | <u>8,967</u> |

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

7. Properties and Equipment - Net of Accumulated Depreciation

December 31, 2017

| | Furniture | Office Equipment | Computers | Vehicles | Total |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Cost | | | | | |
| Balance as of January 1, 2017 | 32,512 | 37,047 | 37,165 | 46,140 | 152,864 |
| Additions During the year | 1,781 | 316 | 974 | - | 3,071 |
| Disposal During the year | (3,104) | (3,391) | (16,061) | - | (22,556) |
| Balance as of December 31, 2017 | 31,189 | 33,972 | 22,078 | 46,140 | 133,379 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | | | | |
| Balance as of January 1, 2017 | 19,733 | 23,960 | 32,549 | 46,140 | 122,382 |
| Depreciation for the year | 2,330 | 3,745 | 1,713 | - | 7,789 |
| Disposal During the year | (2,316) | (3,389) | (16,061) | - | (21,767) |
| Balance as of December 31, 2017 | 19,747 | 24,316 | 18,201 | 46,140 | 108,404 |
| Net Book Value - December 31, 2017 | 11,442 | 9,656 | 3,877 | - | 24,975 |

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
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**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2017**

7. Properties and Equipment - Net of Accumulated Depreciation "Continued"

December 31, 2016

| | Furniture | Office Equipment | Computers | Vehicles | Total |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Cost | | | | | |
| Balance as of January 1, 2016 | 31,195 | 32,616 | 35,708 | 46,140 | 145,659 |
| Additions During the year | 1,317 | 4,431 | 1,457 | - | 7,205 |
| Balance as of December 31, 2016 | 32,512 | 37,047 | 37,165 | 46,140 | 152,864 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | | | | |
| Balance as of January 1, 2016 | 15,868 | 14,951 | 31,459 | 43,275 | 105,553 |
| Depreciation for the year | 2,219 | 3,334 | 1,451 | 2,844 | 9,848 |
| Beginning Balance Adjustments | 1,646 | 5,675 | (361) | 21 | 6,981 |
| Balance as of December 31, 2016 | 19,733 | 23,960 | 32,549 | 46,140 | 122,382 |
| Net Book Value - December 31, 2016 | 12,779 | 13,087 | 4,616 | - | 30,482 |

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession - (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2017**

8. Payables and Accruals

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Accounts Payable | 2,702 | 5,301 |
| Accrued Audit Fees | 4,988 | 4,988 |
| | <u>7,690</u> | <u>10,289</u> |

9. Reserves for Employees End of Service Indemnity

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Beginning balance as of 1 January, | 11,777 | 91,841 |
| Provision for the year | 22,993 | 18,727 |
| Less: Indemnities paid | (6,349) | (98,791) |
| Ending balance as of 31 December, | <u>28,421</u> | <u>11,777</u> |

10. General and Administrative Expenses

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Salaries and related benefits | 158,714 | 147,477 |
| Stationery | 2,120 | 2,828 |
| Electricity and water | 3,457 | 3,272 |
| Postal, telephone and mail | 9,888 | 9,527 |
| Bank charges | 510 | 619 |
| Subscriptions | 2,074 | 1,812 |
| Office rent | 18,233 | 18,235 |
| Hospitality and cleaning | 4,495 | 9,501 |
| Maintenance | 8,758 | 11,313 |
| Fuel and gas | 851 | 2,687 |
| Transportation | 6,497 | 3,292 |
| Medical and insurance | 8,376 | 7,787 |
| Advertising, printing and copying | 1,630 | 2,746 |
| Audit fees | 6,051 | 4,988 |
| Cars license | 426 | 398 |
| Other miscellaneous expenses | 612 | 819 |
| Office Rehabilitation | - | 5,307 |
| Grand Total | <u>232,692</u> | <u>232,608</u> |

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession - (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2017**

11. Program Expenses

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Salaries and related benefits | 120,625 | 120,604 |
| Volunteers rewards & transportations | 4,386 | - |
| Advertising, printing and copying | - | 600 |
| Brochures | 2,008 | - |
| Eye on justice magazine | 7,514 | 3,015 |
| Law and justice magazine | 18,212 | 10,525 |
| TV and radio programs | 6,353 | - |
| Legal Complaints | 4,181 | - |
| Field visits - HRDs | 1,420 | - |
| Regular workshops | 10,154 | 14,855 |
| Conferences | 16,840 | - |
| Capacity building - lawyers | 9,086 | 14,624 |
| Lobbying Activities | 66 | 2,104 |
| Transportation | 690 | 4,200 |
| Programs / Projects Evaluation | 3,370 | 6,300 |
| Legal Aid & Legal clinics | 657 | - |
| BOD/GA annual meetings | 1,560 | 2,044 |
| Staff Training | 2,843 | 6,609 |
| Consultants Fees | - | 551 |
| Capacity building - Internal | 1,471 | 50,641 |
| Lawyers for the role of law | 6,541 | 3,316 |
| Grand Total | 217,977 | 239,988 |

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession – (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2017**

12. Financial Statements, fair values and risks management

- **Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities:**

The carrying book values of financial assets and liabilities are not materially different from their fair values at the date of the statement of financial position.

- **Operational Risk**

The costs of the programs, administrative expenses as well as property, plant and equipment procurements are significantly financed by donors through donations. The management believes that the funding level in the year 2018 will be sufficient to significantly finance its disbursements and will be consistent with the funding level in the prior years. Furthermore, the management believes that the political and economic conditions prevailing in the area will not materially affect its operations.

- **Credit Risk:**

MUSAWA credit risk is primarily attributable to its liquid funds and receivables. The credit risk on liquid funds is limited because they are placed with reputable financial institutions.

- **Interest Rate Risk**

MUSAWA interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in market interest rates may affect the value of its interest bearing assets. The management of MUSAWA usually monitors the fluctuation in interest rates in every individual currency in order to maximize the benefits from placements.

- **Currency Risk:**

Currency risk arises from the possibility that changes in the exchange rates may affect negatively the value of the financial assets and liabilities in case MUSAWA does not hedge its currency exposure by means of hedging instruments. The management usually distributes its liquid assets over its functional currencies to minimize any possible loss from currency rates fluctuation.

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession - (MUSAWA)**

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2017**

13. Program and Administrative Expenses by Unit

| | Legal Monitoring, Law Drafting & improvement Legislations | Legal Public awareness and capacity Building | Institutionalization and internal capacity Building | Total 2017 | 2016 |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------|----------------|
| | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ | U.S. \$ |
| Salaries and related benefits | 114,529 | 136,876 | 27,934 | 279,339 | 268,081 |
| Advertising, printing and copying | 668 | 799 | 163 | 1,630 | 3,346 |
| Bank charges | 209 | 250 | 51 | 510 | 619 |
| Audit fees | 2,481 | 2,965 | 605 | 6,051 | 4,988 |
| Eye on justice magazine | 7,514 | - | - | 7,514 | 3,015 |
| Law and justice magazine | 18,212 | - | - | 18,212 | 10,525 |
| Cars license | 175 | 209 | 42 | 426 | 398 |
| Regular workshops | - | 10,154 | - | 10,154 | 14,855 |
| Electricity and water | 1,417 | 1,694 | 346 | 3,457 | 3,272 |
| Capacity building - lawyers | - | 9,086 | - | 9,086 | 14,624 |
| Lobbying activities | - | 66 | - | 66 | 2,104 |
| Postal, telephone and mail | 4,054 | 4,845 | 989 | 9,888 | 9,527 |
| Transportation | 2,947 | 3,522 | 718 | 7,187 | 7,492 |
| Fuel and gas | 349 | 417 | 85 | 851 | 2,687 |
| Programs / Projects Evaluation | - | - | 3,370 | 3,370 | 6,300 |
| Hospitality and cleaning | 1,843 | 2,203 | 449 | 4,495 | 9,501 |
| Maintenance | 3,591 | 4,291 | 876 | 8,758 | 11,313 |
| Medical and insurance | 3,434 | 4,104 | 838 | 8,376 | 7,787 |
| Office rent | 7,475 | 8,935 | 1,823 | 18,233 | 18,235 |
| Stationery | 869 | 1,039 | 212 | 2,120 | 2,828 |
| Subscriptions | 850 | 1,017 | 207 | 2,074 | 1,812 |
| BOD/GA annual meetings | - | - | 1,560 | 1,560 | 2,044 |
| Staff Training | - | - | 2,843 | 2,843 | 6,609 |
| Conferences | - | 16,840 | - | 16,840 | - |
| TV and radio program | - | 6,353 | - | 6,353 | - |
| Consultants Fees | - | - | - | - | 551 |
| Office Rehabilitation | - | - | - | - | 5,307 |
| Capacity building - Internal | - | - | 1,471 | 1,471 | 50,641 |
| Lawyers for the role of law | 6,541 | - | - | 6,541 | 3,316 |
| Other miscellaneous expenses | 251 | 300 | 61 | 612 | 819 |
| Volunteers rewards & transportations | 1,928 | 2,177 | 281 | 4,386 | - |
| Legal Complaints | 4,181 | - | - | 4,181 | - |
| Field visits HRDs | 1,420 | - | - | 1,420 | - |
| Brochures | - | 2,008 | - | 2,008 | - |
| Legal aid & legal clinics | - | 657 | - | 657 | - |
| Grand Total | 184,938 | 220,807 | 44,924 | 450,669 | 472,596 |

**The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary
And the Legal Profession - (MUSAWA)
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2017**

14. Released from Temporarily Restricted Net Assets by Funding Source

| | Balance as of January 1, 2017 U.S. \$ | Grants Committed During the Year U.S. \$ | Available Grants for Year 2017 U.S. \$ | Released from Restriction Expenses U.S. \$ | Total Released U.S. \$ | Currency Variances USD | Written Off U.S. \$ | Balance as of 31 December 2017 U.S. \$ |
|--|---|--|--|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands | 1,168,849 | - | 1,168,849 | (357,020) | (357,020) | - | - | 811,829 |
| European Commission - Human Rights Defenders | 39,253 | - | 39,253 | (22,631) | (22,631) | (6,164) | (10,458) | - |
| UNDP | - | 60,000 | 60,000 | (60,000) | (60,000) | - | - | - |
| | 1,208,102 | 60,000 | 1,268,102 | (439,651) | (439,651) | (6,164) | (10,458) | 811,829 |