



NEWSLETTER

June 2016

Launching MUSAWA's New Website

MUSAWA is pleased to announce the launch of its [new website](#). After the updated logo, the website is another physical change contributing to MUSAWA's efforts to position itself in becoming the main watchdog specialized in monitoring the performance of the justice system, and a credible body to which Civil Society Organizations, community actors, official justice institutions, donors and the public refer in upholding the rule of law in Palestine. As of now, anybody with access to internet can submit complaints through our detailed violation form, contact MUSAWA's office directly through Skype and telephone ... Continue reading page 6

A Societal Lobbying Coalition to Push Forward Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration

In the context of working towards establishing the Coalition for Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration (herein after PHRDD) which aims at putting decision-makers under pressure to adopt the PHRDD as a



declaration of binding power, a meeting to introduce the PHRDD Coalition was organized by MUSAWA and the Palestinian

Human Rights Defenders (herein after PHRDs) Network.

The meeting was held at MUSAWA's Ramallah Office and Gaza Office through video conference on 22/06/2016, and it was attended by 33 representatives of 20 organizations and unions, where the attendees decided that a legal memo should be sent to the related official bodies to demand that the necessary actions be taken to approve, issue, and enforce the declaration as soon as possible.

Developing MUSAWA's Monitoring & Complaints Unit

As part of a UNDP program to develop MUSAWA's monitoring and complaints unit, an expert in legal monitoring and documentation was contracted to set-up, as of next month, a Training of Trainers program on subjects related to complaints and monitoring for the purpose of building the capacities of MUSAWA's staff and members of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups -friends of MUSAWA-, hence upgrading their competencies to train the groups that work on monitoring-related issues in different areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Raising Awareness amongst Marginalized Groups

The Legitimacy of Implementing Death Sentences and Publishing Primary Investigation

On 20/06/2016, a workshop under the title of “The Legitimacy of Implementing Death Sentences and Publishing Primary Investigation” was carried-out by MUSAWA, in cooperation with the PHRDs Network and Al-Huriyah Forum. The workshop was held in Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, targeting 12 participants. *More details can be found [here](#).*

MUSAWA’s Interventions

MUSAWA received two complaint this month. The first complaint revolved around the procedures related to transfers and appointments within the High Judicial Council, the Public Prosecution, and governmental departments. The second complaint addressed the rights of the complainant regarding counting the years of service for his pension. Both complaints were handled by giving legal advice for the complainants.

Legal Lectures on Inheritance

Aiming at enabling 29 male and female trainee lawyers from the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network in Gaza of gaining the requirements for practicing Shari ‘a law, MUSAWA conducted a group of lectures to discuss inheritance over five lectures, held each Monday and Wednesday starting from 23/05/2016 until 05/06/2016.

The lectures were given by lawyer Tareq Juma’a, a member of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups - friends of MUSAWA-. At the end of the training, participant stressed the importance of continuously raising their awareness in different subjects, relevant to the one mentioned above.

Electing Female Coordinator for the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network in Gaza and North Gaza



In a first-of-its-kind initiative by Civil Society Organizations and civil institutions in Palestine, elections were held in Gaza and North Gaza to elect a female coordinator to lead the activities of the PHRDs Network in the Gaza Strip.

This, of course, reflects the great attention MUSAWA pays to women, enabling them of active participation in all life aspects in general and in the Network's elections in specific, working towards defending human rights and the realization of the principle of the rule of law, and promoting equality and equal opportunities between both genders without any kind of discrimination.

Legal Memo: Hebron's Court Building

On 19/06/2016, MUSAWA sent a [legal memo](#) to the Prime Minister, Dr. Rami Al-Hamdallah, and to the Legal Adviser to the President, regarding Hebron's court building to demand that the necessary legal action be taken to ensure providing Tulkarm's court building with electricity so that the chance to build a court house in Hebron would not be missed.

Radio Interview: Hebron's Court Building

MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, lawyer Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated on 26/06/2016 in a radio interview to speak about Hebron's court house. It is worth noting that MUSAWA had issued a legal memo regarding the matter, which can be found in the link on the left.

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



Five meetings in five different areas (Ramallah, Jerusalem, and Jericho; Salfeet and Nablus; Tulqarm and Qalqilya; Jenin and Tubas; Bethlehem and Hebron) were carried-out by MUSAWA in cooperation with the PHRDs Network for its members. The meetings were held during June 2016, targeting 45 male and female members, in

order to reach an agreement in terms of the mechanism by which members will do the Network's activities in the upcoming period, to forge its internal system, and to contribute to the expansion of the Coalition for Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration.

Three other meetings were held for the same purpose for 41 members of the PHRDs Network in Gaza and North Gaza.

Netherlands Representatives Visit MUSAWA

MUSAWA's staff members met with two representatives of the Netherlands Representative Office, Henny de Vries and Dicky Methorst, to get better acquainted with each other and to discuss the progress that has been made regarding MUSAWA's Core Program 2016 – 2019. Furthermore, the strong partnership between MUSAWA and the State of the Netherlands was emphasized. MUSAWA found the meeting 'very fruitful' and is looking forward to the next meeting.

Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network: First Central Meeting for Elected Coordinators in West Bank and Gaza



similar meeting for the Network's elected coordinators in Gaza and North Gaza after repeating the elections in both regions in an attempt to maintain the representation of women in elections and to enhance participation and democracy in the work. The meeting was also attended by unsuccessful female candidates.

Aiming at unifying the efforts of the unsuccessful candidates and the elected coordinators, the first central meeting for the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network's coordinators was held by MUSAWA in cooperation with the Network and with the attendance of all candidates who were unsuccessful in the general elections held at the end of May 2016 as well as those who won the elections. MUSAWA also organized another

Radio Interviews

The Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration

The "Empowering Palestinian Human Rights Defenders" Project Coordinator, Hamdi Hussein, participated on 29/06/2016 in a radio interview as part of a program aired on Nisaa FM to introduce the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Declaration (PHRDD) in terms of its importance, objectives, and working stages. During the interview, Mr. Hussein also spoke about the formation of the Coalition for the PHRDD as a lobbying coalition and the role of its institutions in offering expanding the coalition and activating its role.

Death Sentences

On 02/06/2016, MUSAWA, represented by its Legal and Technical Adviser lawyer Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated in a [radio interview](#) on Raya FM to speak about death sentences.

Latest Internal Developments

In completion of the training MUSAWA's team has received in incorporating the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in the organization's programs and policies, MUSAWA's staff, both in Ramallah and Gaza (through video conference), conducted several internal workshops and meetings to do a re-analysis of MUSAWA's Strategic Plan 2015 – 2019 by following the steps set by the HRBA, including a *situation analysis, causality analysis, role pattern analysis, and capacity gap analysis*.

The re-analysis phase will be completed next month, in coordination with MDF Training & Consultancy, who are supervising the process to ensure its conformity with the common international standards.



Other Activities

EUPOLCOPPS and Justice System Representatives' Meeting on Fair Trial Guarantees

On 05/06/2016, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Mr. Ibrahim Barghouthi, attended a Civil Society Consultation Meeting organized by EUPOLCOPPS, in collaboration with the High Judicial Council, Ministry of Justice, Attorney General Office, Palestinian Civil Police, and Palestinian Bar Association in Ramallah on existing 'fair trial' gaps in domestic legislation and judicial practice. The event was organized as an integral part of the wider approach in full realization of the right to a fair trial in Palestine.

Workshop: Amendments to the Civil Service Law

MUSAWA, and other representatives of the Public Sector and Civil Society Organizations, took part in a workshop conducted by AMAN on 28/06/2016. The workshop addressed the issue of amending the Civil Service Law; there was discussion regarding the new Draft Law on Civil Service and some key intakes regarding the matter.

The Civic Coalition for Monitoring Legislation's Meeting

MUSAWA participated in the first meeting for the Civic Coalition for Monitoring Legislation, held on 14/06/2016 in the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Ramallah. The meeting was dedicated to discuss the work of the Coalition and possible ways for expanding the network of its members.

Conference on International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

MUSAWA's Legal monitoring Officer, lawyer Aya Al-Dabbas, participated on 27/06/2016 in the Conference on International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, which addressed the concepts of torture and abuse from the perspective of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law; the tools and methods used locally, regionally, and internationally to achieve justice for victims; and the mechanisms used to monitor, document, and detect torture incidents as crimes that never become obsolete.



- Since the beginning of this year until the end of June, MUSAWA has reached 544 individuals, 353 females and 191 males, through the awareness workshops it conducted in cooperation with the PHRDs Network as part of the Empowering Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Project. A total of 26 workshops were carried-out in Jenin, Nablus, Tulqarm, Tubas, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, and Jordan Valley.

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... and find the contact details of lawyers participating in the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups - friends of MUSAWA-.

As MUSAWA is currently working on revising its program to become stronger in Results-Based Management (RBM), while incorporating the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) and Gender Mainstreaming at all levels, some features of MUSAWA's website haven't been activated yet. Later this year, MUSAWA will launch its new training course programs, tailor-made to the needs of MUSAWA's beneficiaries; propose new Palestinian legislation as to be in line with international agreements; and launch an participate in new advocacy campaigns.



MUSAWA's Partners
2016



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority



European Union



United Nations
Development Programme