



NEWSLETTER

July 2017

MUSAWA Publishes Justice and Law (29)

MUSAWA – The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession published [issue no. 29 of Justice and Law magazine](#), which is an academically-assessed magazine that publishes legal studies and research aimed at identifying the weaknesses in existing Palestinian legislation or administrative policies in order to induce decision-makers to enact legislative amendments and rectify administrative imbalances. The magazine also contains comments on the final rulings issued by the Palestinian courts.



The Civic Coalition Demands the President to Rescind the Decree-Law on Cybercrimes

The Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process held an urgent meeting in the presence of representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and human rights institutions to discuss the Decree-Law No. (16) of 2017 on cybercrimes.

The meeting, which was held at the ICHR in Ramallah, stressed the gravity of the provisions of the decree-law on one's rights and basic freedoms, particularly the right to the freedom of expression, the right to access to information, and the right to the citizens' privacy which is guaranteed by the amended Basic Law and the international human-rights treaties.

The meeting called on the President to rescind the Decree-Law on Cybercrimes, emphasizing that it is vital to conduct an extensive community discussion to endorse a modern cybercrime law that conforms to international human rights standards and the amended Basic Law, and guarantees the citizens' right to the freedom of opinion and to privacy.

Filed Visits to the Pillars of Justice

In cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups, MUSAWA conducted a series of field visits to the pillars of justice in Gaza throughout the month of July 2017, including the Court of First Instance of Deir Al-Balah/ Khan Yunis; the Sharia Court of Gaza and Jabalia; Gaza and Khan Yunis's courts complex; and the Magistrate Court of Deir Al-Balah and Jabalia. These visits come as part of MUSAWA's oversight role in monitoring law-violations and enforcing the rule of law.

Legal Memos

02/07/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Head and members of the High Judicial Council/ Gaza regarding the violation of the administrative and judicial code of conduct, in response to a written complaint.

02/07/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Council of Ministers, by the Minister of Justice, about the draft decree-law on the judicial body of the Palestinian security forces.

17/07/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Chairman and members of the Bar council/ Gaza concerning the infringement of the rules of conduct of the legal profession, in response to a written complaint.

MUSAWA's Interventions

Throughout the month of July 2017, MUSAWA received three legal complaints: the violation of the rules of conduct of the legal profession, the abuse of power, and the unlawful request by the security services from a detainee to remove his counsel in exchange for his freedom.

MUSAWA addressed the first complaint by sending a legal memo to the Chairman and members of the Bar council in Gaza, and another memo to the High Judicial Council. The second complaint did not fall within MUSAWA's scope of work. The third complainant was given legal advice.



MUSAWA's Mobile Legal Clinic

Strengthening its oversight role on the performance of the justice sector and raising the awareness of marginalized groups about their rights and how to claim these rights, MUSAWA, in cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), offered legal consultations for marginalized groups both in the West Bank (Aqabat Jaber refugee camp/ Jericho, Kardala/ Tubas, Arab Al-Ramadeen/ Hebron, Tulqarm refugee camp, Dheisheh refugee camp/ Bethlehem, Rafat/ Salfit, Beit Awwa/ Hebron, Ein Beit Al-Ma' refugee camp/ Nablus, and Al-Aroub refugee camp/ Hebron) and the Gaza Strip (Jabalia, Beit-Hanoun, and Al-Zawaydeh). The said consultations were preceded by an introduction to what a legal consultation really

is, and then advice was given on matters that mainly have to do with the Labour Law and inheritance, in addition to other topics in the legal field.

These consultations came as part of MUSAWA's mobile legal clinic program, which will continue to offer legal consultations throughout the whole year both in the West Bank and Gaza.

Radio Interviews

Represented by its Legal and Technical Adviser Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, MUSAWA participated in a [radio interview](#) to tackle the reasons behind the increasing number of homicides and talk about it from a legal perspective. The interview was aired through Hawa Nablus radio station on 03/07/2017.

On 01/07/2017, Adv. Barghouthi took part in a [radio interview](#) (Alam- Hebron radio station) to address **the decree-law on cybercrimes**. Another [radio interview](#) Adv. Barghouthi participated in to talk about the said decree-law and the related threats and contradiction with the Basic Law and the basic principles of human rights and the international treaties Palestine has acceded-to (Mawwal-Bethlehem radio station on 17/07/2017). In the same context, Watan TV [interviewed](#) Adv. Barghouthi over the phone, where he stressed MUSAWA's demands to rescind the said decree-law as soon as possible.

MUSAWA Launches New Radio Program: "The Law under Spotlight"



"The Law under Spotlight" is a legal radio program that deals with the existing laws, and the rights and duties of citizens under these laws. It sheds light on how much the current laws conform with human rights international treaties. The episodes aim at introducing the Palestinian public to the laws and their provisions, and the appropriate mechanism for accessing their rights in a modern and civilized manner that contributes to civil peace and the rule of law.

You can listen to our program every Sunday at 11:00 AM, on-air broadcast through Hawa Nablus (106.8 FM) radio station, hosted by the journalist Ala' Bani-Fadel, in partnership with MUSAWA and the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network (PHRDs).

[Episode \(1\) 09/07/2017](#) – The importance of the Basic Law, and the rights and freedoms' relation to international treaties. The guest: MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

[Episode \(3\) 23/07/2017](#) – The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The guest: MUSAWA's legal monitoring officer, Adv. Aya Al-Dabbas.

[Episode \(2\) 16/07/2017](#) – Cybercrimes. The guest: member of MUSAWA's Board of Directors, head of the rights and freedoms committee, and former member of the Bar council, Adv. Ghassan Massad.

[Episode \(4\) 30/07/2017](#) – The relation between the Bar and the judicial police and the Bar's role in protecting public rights and freedoms. The guest: member of the Bar council, Adv. Mohammad Jarrar.

Other Activities

Participating in a 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



Invited by the Civil Society Organizations Commission (COC), MUSAWA's PR Officer represented MUSAWA in the meeting mentioned above, held on 17/07/2017 at its office in Ramallah, to discuss the operational plan of the COC's democracy and human rights department in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the institutions working in this field.

Participating in a regional conference on corruption and anti-corruption

Represented by its Board of Directors Secretary, Adv. Youssef Bakhtan, MUSAWA took part in a regional conference that tackled corruption and the means by which it can be eliminated. The conference took place in the city of Amman on the 12th and 13th of July 2017.

Participating as invigilator in the exam for selecting a Magistrate judge in the Gaza Strip



On 15/07/2017, MUSAWA was an invigilator in the written exam for Magistrate judges in Gaza. A total of 92 candidates, including 12 women, were distributed over four halls. MUSAWA was represented by its legal monitoring officer in Gaza, Adv. Rula Moussa.

Participating in a seminar about the ethics of the legal profession

Invited by the Modern University College, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi spoke in a seminar about the ethics of the legal profession, held at the college itself on 25/07/2017, in the presence of Internal Operations Manager Ahlam Tarayra. The seminar was attended by the students and instructors of the law faculty. It is worth mentioning that Adv. Amjad Al-Shilleh also took part in the seminar as a speaker on behalf of the Bar Association.