



NEWSLETTER

May 2018

MUSAWA's Intervention Stops Issuance of Decision Threatening Fate of UNRWA Students in Gaza

In implementation of its schools' renovation policy, UNRWA has taken the decision to demolish and renovate Gaza's elementary joint schools (A and B), and to transfer the students to the schools of



Tal Al-Hawa where a system of evening shifts will be adopted. Demonstrating its concern for safeguarding and protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals in the Palestinian society, MUSAWA took it upon themselves to follow up on this issue. MUSAWA sought a solution which would satisfy all parties involved, ensuring that the children's right to education is realized, without any additional burden on them or their families, taking into consideration the social and economic hardships in the Gaza

Strip. MUSAWA proposed that a referendum be held to take the parents' opinions regarding the matter, which was conducted by the Director of the educational area. As a result, the decision of the majority of the parents was issued and circulated on May 17, 2018. More details [here](#).

MUSAWA and CSOs Conduct Legal Workshop:

"The Excessive Use of Power against Peaceful Assemblies: the International Law and Human Rights Violations Involved"

As part of incorporating the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) into its programs and policies, MUSAWA along with Dr. Haider Abdel Shafi Center for Culture & Development and the International Commission for Supporting the Palestinians' Rights (HASHD), conducted a workshop in Al-Odeh refugee camp on Sunday 06/05/2018, under the title: "The Excessive Use of Power against Peaceful Assemblies: the International Law and Human Rights Violations Involved". **At the end of the workshop, the participants recommended** to demand



the Palestinian diplomacy actors to turn to the International Criminal Court and the UN bodies, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, in implementation of the UN Resolution No. 194 which guarantees the Palestinian people their inherent right to return to their homes. The total number of participants was 35 citizens, including 5 women, varying from legal professionals and lawyers to journalists and community activists. More details [here](#).

MUSAWA Organizes Two Training Courses in Ramallah and Gaza: “Introducing Intellectual Property: Means of Protection”

Given the importance of intellectual property as an integral part of academic freedom as well as the freedom of expression stipulated in the Constitution, MUSAWA organized [two training courses](#) on the topic to raise awareness among trainee and recently licensed lawyers. The training was held at MUSAWA's offices in Ramallah (14 men & 10 women) and Gaza (9 men & 8 women).



The training courses tackled the definition of intellectual property and the national, international, and regional legislation regulating intellectual property; national and international patents and trademarks; civil and criminal protection of intellectual property; and the role of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in resolving intellectual property disputes.



MUSAWA Observes, Gives Comments on Bar Finals

MUSAWA took part in the invigilation of the Bar finals for the session of April 2018, which were held on 29/04/2018 at Birzeit University. MUSAWA's monitoring team was present in almost all of the examination rooms.

As promised in last month's newsletter, we provide you with a [detailed monitoring report](#) containing MUSAWA's most important comments on the violations spotted by its monitoring team in the exam rooms.

In the same context, MUSAWA's General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated in a [radio interview](#) (Hawa Nablus FM), on 10/05/2018, to address the aforementioned exams.

Legal Memos

13/05/2018 – [memo](#) to the Attorney General, Dr. Ahmad Barrak, about “the failure to implement a judicial ruling”.

23/05/2018 – [memo](#) to the Attorney General, Dr. Ahmad Barrak, about “arrests ordered by governors reach children as well!”

22/05/2018 – [reminder](#) to the Sharia Judicial Inspection Department to respond to MUSAWA's memo on “the violation of the code of conduct and lawyer's rights”, which was sent a month before the date of the reminder.

Position Paper

[Decree-Law No. \(9\) Of 2018 on the High Criminal Court, and Decree-Law No. \(10\) Of 2018 on Cybercrime.](#)

MUSAWA's Interventions

During May, MUSAWA received five complaints: 1) the unlawful detention of two children upon orders from the governor; 2) delay by the Police to implement a judicial ruling; 3) arbitrary measures by a Police station; 4) unlawful deprivation of liberty and detention; 5) the Public Prosecution's failure to meet their obligations.

MUSAWA sent two legal memo to the Attorney General regarding the first two complaints. Legal advice was offered concerning the third and fourth complaints. As for the fifth complaint, it is in the process of being addressed by our monitoring team.

Field Visits to the Pillars of Justice

In cooperation with the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), MUSAWA carried-out a series of field visits to the pillars of justice, including the regular court, military court, and the High Court of Justice in Ramallah. These visits come as part of MUSAWA's work as a watchdog organization which monitors law-violations and promotes the rule of law.

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, as well as building the capacities of young lawyers and law students, MUSAWA along with its volunteers' network conducted awareness workshops in the West Bank (Beit Sahour, Ramallah Educational Sciences Faculty, Palestine Technical University Kadoorei - Ramallah) and the Gaza Strip (Rafah – Al Shokeh, Rafah – Jneineh, Khan Yunis, Khuza'a). During the workshops, legal advice was given mainly on matters related to women's labor rights, women's rights in the Civil Service Law, the Palestinian Labour Law No. (7) of 2000, fair trial, the Personal Status Law in the Gaza Strip, the independence of the judiciary, and the right to decent residence. In Gaza, 112 women participated in the workshops. In the West Bank, 87 participants, including 75 women/students, took part in the aforementioned workshops.





Other Activities

Participating in a meeting about the reality of NGOs – Palestinian NGOs Network 13/05/2018. MUSAWA was represented by its General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Contributing to the information session on SAWASYA II, held on 02/05/2018. They presented the objectives and aspirations of the program and the nature of the partnerships it aims to build with CSOs, as well as the requirements for an organization to be listed as an eligible candidate to apply for the program. MUSAWA was represented by its General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi; Executive Manager, Ahlam Tarayra; and Financial Manager, Marina Qaqish.

Meeting with Civil Society partners to discuss the situation in the Gaza Strip, held on 22/05/2018. MUSAWA was represented by its General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

Taking part in the launching ceremony of the project “Palestinian Civil Society Networks and Unions: The Key Engine for Community Development and Influencing Public Policies”, held on 23/05/2018 at Al-Carmel Hotel in Ramallah. MUSAWA was represented by its Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Angham Mansour.

Participating in a workshop on the inclusion of persons with disabilities, held at the Independent Commission for Human Rights on 02/05/2018. MUSAWA was represented by its Legal Awareness & Training Officer, Adv. Shurooq Abu-Qare’.

Taking part in the opening of the event “Say No to Countering the Truth”, conducted by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights on 06/05/2018, where a report on “muzzling” the press was presented, in addition to addressing the main violations committed by the Israeli Occupation Forces against journalists. MUSAWA was represented by its Legal Awareness & Training Officer, Adv. Momen Hattab.

Participating in the launching ceremony of Hurryat’s project “A Society Free from Torture”, held on 10/05/2018. MUSAWA was represented by its Legal Awareness & Training Officer, Adv. Shurooq Abu-Qare’, and its Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Ruba Bakeer.

Contributing to a workshop on the criteria for meeting international standards for fair trial guarantees, which MUSAWA attended on 10/05/2018 at the invitation of Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the Faculty of Law and Public Administration at Birzeit University. MUSAWA was represented by its General Manager, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi.

MUSAWA's
Partners
2018



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority