



# NEWSLETTER

June 2017

## MUSAWA's Mobile Legal Clinic

Strengthening its oversight role on the performance of the justice sector and raising the awareness of marginalized groups on their rights, MUSAWA offered legal consultations for the residents of Al-Daraj neighborhood, Jabalia camp, and the city of Jabalia. The consultations were preceded by an introduction of what a legal consultation really is, and then advice was given on matters that are mainly related to the Labour Law and the rights of workers, in addition to other topics.



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

## MUSAWA's Vision on the Reform of the Justice System: The Judiciary, Constitutional Court, and Public Prosecution

MUSAWA sent a memo to Mr. President and his Legal Advisor, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, the Attorney General, the Head and members of the High Judicial Council, the Chairman and members of the Bar Association, the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and representatives of the parliamentary blocs. Containing [MUSAWA's vision about reforming the justice system "the Judiciary, the Constitutional Court and the Public Prosecution"](#), this paper comes after the consensus among the official pillars of justice: the Head of the High Judicial Council, the Attorney General, the Legal Advisor to the President, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Justice, to amend the Judicial Authority Law and take Law No. 15 of 2005 as well as the studies presented to official bodies as a baseline to this amendment according to what has been agreed amongst them, and as a substitute to the draft decree-law proposed by the Minister of Justice commissioned by the government. The paper reflects the controversy revolving around the constitutional mechanisms that are appropriate for reform, if there was a true and serious political will for improvement.

## Filed Visits to the Pillars of Justice

Throughout June 2017, MUSAWA carried-out a series of field visits to the pillars of justice, including Gaza's Magistrate Court and Court of First Instance, the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court, Deir Al-Balah's Shari'a Court and Magistrate Court, Khan Yunis' Magistrate Court and Court of First Instance, Gaza's Shari'a Court, Ramallah's Magistrate Court and Court of First Instance, Ramallah's

Shari'a Court and Military Justice. These visits come as part of MUSAWA's oversight role in monitoring law violations and strengthening the rule of law.



## Legal Memos

15/06/2017 – A [memo](#) to His Excellency the Prime Minister and the honorable ministers, by the Minister of Justice, concerning the Draft Decree-Law Amending the Judicial Authority Law proposed by the Minister of Justice.

18/06/2017 – A [memo](#) to the Department of Judicial Inspection in response to a complaint that was filed by a trainee Shari'a lawyer, addressing the violation of the Judicial Code of Conduct.

06/06/2017 – A [memo](#) to the honorable Chairman and members of the Bar Association regarding the decision which was issued by the General Directorate of Customs, Excise and Value Added Tax, stating not to proceed with lawyers' files unless they are registered and their VAT obligations are fulfilled.

## Radio Interviews

### MUSAWA's Interventions

In June 2017, three legal complaints were filed at MUSAWA's office in the West Bank. The complaints revolved around issues that have to do with unlawful detention, objection to a court ruling, and a Shari'a judge speaking to trainee lawyers in an inappropriate manner. MUSAWA addressed the first two complaints by giving legal advice to the complainants. The third complaint was handled by a legal memo that was sent to the Department of Judicial Inspection regarding the matter.

Furthermore, MUSAWA's Gaza office recorded eight legal complaints, one of which was dated in May. The subjects of the complaints included the violation of fair trial guarantees, the loss of court files, the assault on a detainee at Jabalia's police station, and the deprivation of liberty. MUSAWA tackled the second subject by sending out a legal memo on 03/07/2017 to the Head and members of the High Judicial Council in Gaza.

On 11/06/2017, MUSAWA's Legal Monitoring Officer, Adv. Aya Al-Dabbas, participated in an [interview](#) on Nisaa' FM to talk about MUSAWA's mobile legal clinic program, which is being executed both in the West Bank and Gaza.

On 14/06/2017, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Advisor, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouhti, participated in an [interview](#) on Radio Ajyal to talk about the Draft Decree-Law Amending the Judicial Authority Law. On 17/06/2017, Adv. Barghouhti also took part in another radio interview on Alam-Hebron radio to clarify MUSAWA's stand on the same subject. Moreover, Ultra Palestine conducted a dialogue with Adv. Barghouhti concerning the aforementioned draft decree-law.

On 19/06/2017, Alam-Hebron radio interviewed MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouhti, to address the threats and consequences of the decision to block websites and the legal violations involved.



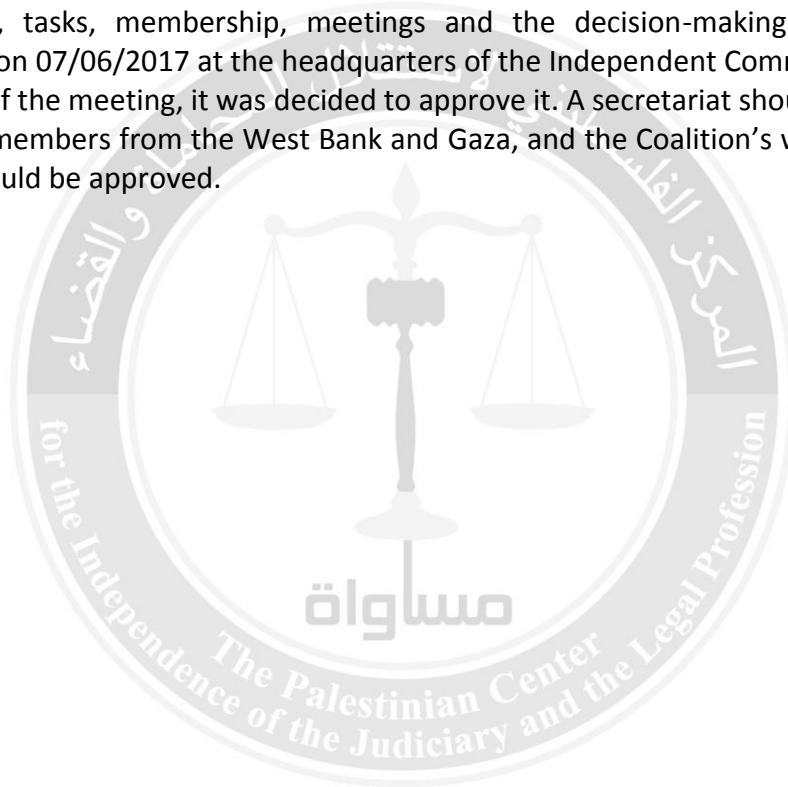
## Other Activities

### **MUSAWA takes part in the closing conference on enhancing gender issues in the Palestinian security institution in line with CEDAW**

Represented by its Public Relations Officer, Shadha Musallam, and Internal Operations Manager, Ahlam Tarayra, MUSAWA participated in the closing conference on enhancing gender issues in the Palestinian security institution in line with CEDAW, which was conducted by DCAF on 12/06/2017 at Ankars Hotel in Ramallah. The workshop gathered representatives of the advisory committee on gender in the security sector, the Ministry Of Interior, Civil Society Organizations, and the media.

### **MUSAWA participates in a meeting for approving the founding document of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process**

MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Ibrahim Barghouthi, took part in a meeting for approving the founding document of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process in terms of definition, mission, tasks, membership, meetings and the decision-making mechanism. The meetings was held on 07/06/2017 at the headquarters of the Independent Commission for Human Rights. At the end of the meeting, it was decided to approve it. A secretariat should be established, consisting of (5-7) members from the West Bank and Gaza, and the Coalition's work plan until the end of this year should be approved.



MUSAWA's Partners  
2017



The Netherlands  
Representative Office to  
the Palestinian Authority