



# NEWSLETTER

October 2016

## MUSAWA Publishes 27<sup>th</sup> Issue of Justice and Law

MUSAWA published its [27<sup>th</sup> issue of Justice and Law magazine \(special edition\)](#), which contains comments by three experts in constitutional law: Egypt–Adviser Abdul Aziz Saliman, Deputy President of Egypt’s Supreme Constitutional Court; Jordan –Dr. Mohammad Al-Hammouri, constitutional-law teacher, former Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Jordan, and former Minister; and Mr. Mohammad Khader, a constitutional-law instructor at Birzeit University. The experts unanimously agreed that the declaratory decision in question oversteps the authorities granted to the Constitutional Court, has no legal value, and is not enforceable.

## Latest Developments in the Palestinian Judiciary

On the day following the issuance of the presidential decree approving the resignation of Judge Sami Sarsour from office, Mr. Sami Sarsour visited MUSAWA to seek assistance in appealing the aforementioned decision, and he provided MUSAWA with a proposed [contestation](#).

Having examined Judge Sami Sarsour's request, MUSAWA [responded](#) in writing to explain that the positions of both sides in the conflict do not fall under MUSAWA's values. It is also worth mentioning that Mr. Sami paid a second visit to MUSAWA's office to explain the written memo which he has sent to the President, demanding that the aforementioned decision be withdrawn.

On the other hand, civil society organizations convened to look into the circumstances that surrounded the acceptance of Sarsour's resignation from office, which unveiled the fact that the Executive Authority asks the heads of high judicial councils to sign their resignation in advance to taking office. As a result, the attendees issued a [statement](#) on 24/10/2016 regarding the matter.

## MUSAWA’s General Assembly Meeting

On 03/10/2016, MUSAWA’s General Assembly members in Gaza convened to look into the efforts MUSAWA has made in developing its institutional structure and incorporating the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in its internal as well as external work.



## MUSAWA Conducts Meeting for Coordinators of Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network



In cooperation with the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders (hereinafter PHRDs) Network, MUSAWA held a periodic meeting on 17/10/2016 for the coordinators in its Ramallah and Gaza offices, where members communicated through video conference. The meeting was attended by the coordinators as well as a number of its members; a total of 29 individuals, 13 of whom are women. For an overview of the topics discussed and recommendations given, click [here](#).

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

Throughout October, eight meetings in eight different areas (Ramallah, Jerusalem and Jericho; Salfet and Nablus; Tulqarm and Qalqilya; Jenin and Tubas; Bethlehem and Hebron; Gaza and North Gaza; Gaza's Middle Governorate; Khan Yunis and Rafah) were carried-out by MUSAWA, in cooperation with the PHRDs Network. The meetings were attended by a total of 76 members (40 females and 36 males).

### MUSAWA's Interventions

In October, MUSAWA received 3 legal complaints. The first complaint addressed a request for promotion, the second complaint revolved around the delay in examining the appeals filed by Ramallah's Court of Appeals, and the third complaint was about the failure to implement a court ruling. MUSAWA addressed the first complaint by providing the complainant with the appropriate legal advice, while handling the last two complaints is still in process.

### Radio Interview

On 13/10/2016, MUSAWA's Legal and Technical Adviser, Lawyer Ibrahim Barghouthi, participated in a radio interview on Ajyal radio station to speak about the latest news on accepting Judge Sami Sarsour's resignation from office as Chief Justice and Head of the High Judicial Council.



## MUSAWA Holds 8 Meetings for Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups



MUSAWA held 8 periodic meetings for the members of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), both in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (5 meetings in several West Bank governorates, and 3 meetings in the Gaza Strip). The meetings were attended by a total of 93 members (36 females and 57 males), who stressed the purpose of the groups and their effective role in monitoring, documenting and following-up violations in the pillars of justice. Also, they talked about their role in writing articles and

preparing studies and having them published in MUSAWA's monitory publications, in addition to other subjects.



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