



NEWSLETTER

May 2017

MUSAWA Demands the Abolition of Death Penalty

Stressing its opposition of the death penalty, as a penalty itself or in terms of the procedures of its imposition or application, for it is an expression of the failure of the security solution, which MUSAWA has already confirmed publicly and repeatedly, MUSAWA issued a [statement](#) on 21/05/2017, demanding that the death penalty be reconsidered and a moratorium be established on its application, while making sure to provide fair trial guarantees, including the accused's right to defense. In its statement, MUSAWA demanded that the death penalty be replaced with some other penalty regulated by the Palestinian Penal Code in force, ensuring that it is not inconsistent with the international penal philosophy.

Legal Memo

On the 16th of May 2017, MUSAWA issued a [legal memo](#) to the Head and members of the High Judicial Council, addressing the judicial circulars that were issued by the Head of the High Judicial Council.

A Statement by CSOs: In Defense of the Rule of Law and the Freedom of Expression

On the referral of Judge Abdullah Ghazlan, a judge in the Supreme Court/a member of the High Judicial Council, for investigation after a decision was issued by the Vice-President of the Supreme Court/Deputy Head of the High Judicial Council, due to expressing opinions about judicial administrative matters, a number of CSOs issued a [statement](#) on the matter on 09/05/2017. The statement was sent to the High Judicial Council, the Attorney General, the Legal Advisor to the President, the Minister of Justice, and a number of judges.

MUSAWA Monitors Local Elections



MUSAWA was approved as an official observer of the local elections. Lawyers, media figures, and unionists from all over the West Bank sent applications to MUSAWA requesting to be authorized as official observers in the elections. The applicants also included members of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups, the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders' Network (PHRDs), and a number of MUSAWA's Ramallah team. A total of 103 observers were distributed over the West Bank's electoral areas. Additionally, MUSAWA, on 10/05/2017, had conducted a [workshop](#) to train MUSAWA's observers on monitoring the local elections. The training was facilitated by Advocate Safaa' Al-Sidawi, a member of the PHRDs' Network.

MUSAWA Gives Field Legal Consultations



Strengthening its oversight role on the performance of the justice sector and raising the awareness of marginalized groups on their rights and how to claim these rights, MUSAWA offered legal consultations for the residents of the village of Qaryut/ Nablus. The consultations were provided in cooperation with Advocate Hamed Abu-Mukho, a member of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA), and tackling issues mainly related to the Land Law and Labour Law. Furthermore, MUSAWA's Gaza Office delivered legal consultations over the phone throughout the month, addressing labor rights and inheritance-related issues.

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.

MUSAWA's Interventions

In May, MUSAWA received one legal complaint, requesting the postponement of elections in the city of Al-Samou'. MUSAWA addressed the complaint by contacting the Central Elections Commission.

MUSAWA Hosts a Lecture on Inheritance

In preparation for the Sharia lawyers' license examination, a groups of Sharia lawyers were welcomed at MUSAWA's Gaza Office to hold a lecture on the subject of inheritance. The lecture was facilitated by Advocate Tareq Juma'a, a member of the Lawyers for the Rule of Law Groups (friends of MUSAWA).

MUSAWA Takes Part in Birzeit University's Career Fair 2017



On the 16th of May, MUSAWA participated in the annual career fair which was held by Birzeit University in the university itself.

Representing MUSAWA, Human Resources Officer Khalil Rantissi, Legal Monitoring Officer Aya Al-Dabbas, and Monitoring & Evaluation Officer Ruba Bakeer attended the university's career day, where students and graduates were introduced to MUSAWA's work and its most important accomplishments. MUSAWA's team also disseminated some of MUSAWA's leaflets and publications to students and interested professors.

Expressing their interest and desire to join MUSAWA's team, many of the university students provided MUSAWA with their details and contact information, hoping to be able to benefit from the experiences MUSAWA offers as part of its internship/volunteer program.



Other Activities

MUSAWA participates in a workshop on the harmonization of the law of correction and rehabilitation centers with the international law

At the invitation of the Ministry of Justice, MUSAWA represented by its Legal Awareness & Training Officer, Adv. Shurooq Abu Qare', participated in a workshop about the harmonization of the correction and rehabilitation centers law with the international law. The workshop was held on 11/05/2017 at the Movenpick Hotel in Ramallah. During the workshop, the attending institutions proposed changes and modifications to the Palestinian correction and rehabilitation law, consistent with the agreements and treaties Palestine has acceded-to, particularly the anti-torture agreement.

MUSAWA takes part in a training: "The Role of the International Law in Highlighting Humanitarian and Development Challenges in the Occupied Palestinian Territories"



The Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO) organized on Tuesday 23/05/2017 a training workshop about the role of the international law in highlighting humanitarian and development challenges in the occupied Palestinian territories. The workshop gathered representatives of the network's member organizations, including MUSAWA, which was represented by its PR Officer, Shadha Musallam, and its Legal Awareness and Training Officer, Adv. Shurooq

Abu-Qare'. The workshop revolved around the main violations of the international humanitarian law by the occupation, including the forced transfer of prisoners to the occupied Palestinian territories, house demolitions, the unlawful expansion of "settlements", and other infringements.

MUSAWA engages in the first conference of the Palestinian Judicial Institute

Represented by its Legal and Technical Adviser, Adv. Ibrahim Barghouthi, MUSAWA took part in the first conference of the Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI), held on 17/05/2017. In response to Mr. Barghouthi's intervention during the conference, French expert Benoit Chamouard stressed that criticizing the performance of the judiciary is considered a right in France; criticism might even reach the judicial authority as an authority as well as the performance of the judges themselves, and that a judge's independence is guaranteed. Furthermore, Mr. Chamouard pointed out that the institute is run by 20 personalities, the majority of whom are judges. Also, he said that the institute is independent and professional in its trainings, and that it adheres to the international standards and principles of judicial training.

MUSAWA's
Partners
2017



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority