



NEWSLETTER

January 2017



Secretary of MUSAWA's Board of Directors Meets with Public Prosecutor

To look further into the Draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court, MUSAWA's BOD Secretary met with His Excellency Public Prosecutor, where he also invited Him to take part in a [workshop](#) MUSAWA was planning to carry-out at the time, along with the Independent Commission for Human Rights, AMAN and the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process for the same purpose.

MUSAWA Discusses Means of Cooperation with Tunisian Ambassador

MUSAWA, represented by its Legal and Technical Advisor and BOD Secretary, met with Tunisia's ambassador to discuss ways of joint cooperation between the legal and judicial actors and MUSAWA in the field of commenting on court rulings and participating in conferences and round table discussions about the Tunisian judicial and legislative experience as well as the opportunities available at the national level.

A Memo to Mr. President about Draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court

On the 12th of January, MUSAWA sent a memo to the Palestinian President, stressing the vitality of acting slowly and patiently regarding whether or not to issue the decree-law so as to give MUSAWA, as well as other Civil Society Organizations, the chance to form an opinion concerning the issue, which will then be duly sent to the President.

In the same context, MUSAWA issued a [position paper](#) expressing its vision regarding the issue. The paper was sent to the members of the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process for the purpose of reaching an agreement on a memo that will be sent jointly to the President.

MUSAWA Holds Discussion about Draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court



On the 23rd of January, MUSAWA held a session in cooperation with the Independent Commission for Human Rights, the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process and the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) to discuss the Draft Decree-Law on High Criminal Court, following the reactions this has provoked among numerous legal figures and competent Civil Society

Organizations, as the decree-law violates the Palestinian Basic Law and the binding international agreements Palestine has acceded-to.

In the same context, MUSAWA participated on January 30th in the Civic Coalition for Monitoring the Legislative Process's meeting, held at the headquarters of the Independent Commission for Human Rights. Mainly, the meeting aimed at examining the Coalition's vision concerning the aforementioned draft decree-law. It was concluded at the end of the meeting that a joint memo carrying the names of CSO members, and a meeting with the High Judicial Council will be planned to discuss the draft. Moreover, a press conference will be held next Wednesday to explain the Coalition's stance on the matter.

Coordinators of Palestinian Human Rights Defenders Network Meet EU Representative

In January 2017, MUSAWA and the Palestinian Human Rights Defenders (hereinafter PHRDs) Network organized a regular meeting for the PHRDs coordinators in the West Bank and Gaza. A representative of the European Union attended the meeting, along with the coordinators and other members; a total of 31 members including 15 female participants.



Radio Episode

The PHRDs Network and MUSAWA organized and conducted a radio episode to talk about the importance of the Network and its role within the Palestinian society. The episode was aired on Gaza FM, and can be found [here](#).



Legal Memos

- On January 30th, MUSAWA sent a written [memo](#) to the Prime Minister – Minister of Interior, addressing the subject of equality before the law and constitutional rights. This was based on a written complaint, lodged by Mustafa Mansour, about depriving him of his right to obtain a certificate of good conduct.
- On January 23rd, MUSAWA sent a [memo](#) to the Higher Shari'a Court Council and the Head of Supreme Shari'a Court, His Eminence Sheikh Dr. Hassan Al-Joujou, based on a complaint about the violation of Shari'a Court procedures.
- On January 30th, MUSAWA sent a written [memo](#) to Public Prosecutor, Dr. Ahmad Barrak, concerning a prejudice to fair trial guarantees, following a complaint from Mohammad Abdulateef Suboh about the arrest of his son by the Palestinian General Intelligence.
- On January 23rd, MUSAWA sent a [memo](#) to His Excellency Dr. Ismail Jaber regarding the deprivation of fair trial guarantees during detention. This memo was sent after a written complaint was submitted at MUSAWA's office.

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

Throughout January, eight meetings in eight different areas within the West Bank and Gaza (Ramallah, Jerusalem and Jericho; Salfeet 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 in cooperation with the PHRDs Network. The meetings were attended by a total of 94 members, including 48 female participants. For more details, click [here](#).

MUSAWA's Interventions

In January, MUSAWA received 4 complaints. The first complaint was about illegally making changes to official records and forging writs of summons. The second and third complaints revolved around prejudicing fair trial guarantees. The fourth complaint talked about the complainant not being able to obtain a certificate of good conduct due to the opinions he expresses on social media (Facebook). MUSAWA handled the complaints by sending legal memos to the competent authorities.

MUSAWA's Partners
2016



The Netherlands
Representative Office to
the Palestinian Authority

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EUROPEAN UNION
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