



MUSAWA



Funded by the European Union

Access To Justice for Poor Women

تحقيق العدالة لدى النساء الكادحات

Weekly Report

Through the European Commission funded joint project "Access to Justice for Poor Women" Musawa and Relief International held a workshop titled "Palestinian Work Standards" in the city of Jenin on May 20th 2010.

Attorney at law Nidal Abu Farha, facilitated the workshop for 21 SME employers concerning working women's rights in the workplace.

Recommendations from the participants were as following:

- 1- Easier access for the Palestinian SME employers to export their products
- 2- Adding a tax or tariff to imports specifically Chinese products in order to preserve Palestinian SME livelihoods and products,
- 3- Adjusting the Palestinian Labor Law in regards to employers, since they feel that the law favors employees but does benefit the employers as much.



Weekly report

In reference to the request of the Bar Association blocks from Musawa to take up the role to mediate and sponsor the Bar Association blocks dialogue, which would guarantee conducting the Bar Association election as soon as possible, with the participation of all of the Bar Association blocks. In this regards Musawa has issued an obligated agreement memo, and sent it to Bar Association blocks and their representatives. Further, Musawa has received several written and oral agreement from the representatives of the Bar Association blocks that were targeted within the letter.

However, Musawa informed that its initiative were widely accepted from the Bar Association blocks to conduct a national dialogue among them in order to come over the political division crisis and conduct the election as soon as possible.

Further, the Bar Association blocks notified Musawa about the current on going dialogue in order to accept and consider the Musawa initiative.

Regarding to the request of several activists in the Bar Association from Musawa to intervene to the General Prosecution in Gaza to release a Bar Association member Advocate Adel Abu Jahel who was arrested due to a personal complaint exemplified in insulting his colleagues, and was submitted to the General Prosecution in the Gaza Strip by his colleagues in the Bar Association. Further, this complaint was rejected by Adel Abu Jahel as he has mentioned that this disagreement based upon personal and political aspects within the Bar Association.

Musawa has intervened to the General Prosecution in Gaza and to relevant bodies and Bar Association blocks, in addition to Islamic blocks, to release the mentioned above lawyer in which was accepted by the concerned bodies. However, the mentioned lawyer above contacted Musawa and expressed his appreciation to Musawa.



Following the issuance of the First Legal Observatory Report for the Situation of Justice in Palestine, the Supreme Judicial Council "Alshareh", welcomed the report and asked Musawa to organize more training courses for judges and staff of the courts, in order to be capable to overcome the weaknesses in the functioning of the courts legitimacy and contribute to developing it, and strengthening the positive indicators in the performance of the family courts.

Furthermore, two fundamental indicators resulted from this press conference; the first indicator exemplified by the request of the Ministry of Justice to Musawa to be part of the advisory board of the justice sector and the invitation of executive director to attend the first meeting of the council mentioned that was held on 19 \ 5 \ 2010. The second indicator exemplified by the High Judiciary Council in which they designed and disseminated a questionnaire for the purposes of standing on the strengths and weaknesses in the functioning of the judiciary from the perspective of judges, who have contacted Musawa and expressed reservations on the application form that contains information which would reveal the identity of the judge, which the judges saw it as a direct effect on their responses that might Reduces the credibility of it. Based on the judges remarks to Musawa, the executive director of Musawa held a meeting with the director general of the courts judge "Azat Alramene", to inform him about the remarks of the judges and ask him to restructure the form or notify the judges that they don't need to fill out the special part of the form regarding the responsibilities of the Judge. Further, Musawa has expressed willingness to help in reshaping and reconstructing the application in order to be more expressing the opinion of the judges in a neutral and professional manner.