

DWRC celebrates the World Day for Safety & Health at Work & May Day



Gaza, 19/05/2022 – On the occasion of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work & May Day, DWRC organized an event about workers' rights in Gaza. The United Cultural Society performed a play entitled: "With the People", which focused on the issue of work injuries, the importance of insurance against work injuries, and mechanisms to overcome challenges faced by workers. This was followed by a discussion of OSH issues, as well as issues facing graduates and jobseekers, and success stories. Participants were also able to watch and comment on a recorded theater performance about women's issues in the labor market.

Three female employees obtain their end of service indemnities & unpaid wages:

After being dismissed by a telecom company on grounds that the company is facing a financial crisis, three female employees requested a legal consultation from DWRC's Legal Aid Unit about their end of service indemnities. The company was undertaking restructuring due to financial losses, and intended to calculate the end of service indemnities on the basis of resignation, which does not apply in this case since the company dismissed them and the indemnities would have been one-third less than what they are entitled to according to the Labor Law. The Unit informed them about the procedures that need to be followed in such cases, referred them to the Ministry of Labor to check if the company informed the Ministry that they were undertaking restructuring due to financial losses, and explained how their indemnities should be calculated. The employees were able to reach an agreement with the management on payment of their full end of service indemnities (not on the basis of resignation), in addition to unpaid wages of a total amount of 10200 shekels for the three of them.

Women's conference in Gaza calls for unity and joint programs in support of marginalized women

Gaza, 07/06/2022 - During a women's conference held in the Gaza Strip in partnership between the Democracy and Workers' Rights Center in Palestine, the Italian Center for Cultural Exchange, and feminist organizations, a group of women's activists recommended that women's organizations unite and support marginalized women through joint programs. The three-day conference started on June 4th, 2022, and was attended by a women's delegation from Italy, representatives of feminist organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, and NGOs representatives.



On the 1st day, solidarity messages with Palestinian women from women around the world were conveyed. Italian organizations and Palestinian organizations, which participated in organizing the conference, were introduced. DWRC presented its various fields of work and programs, and its partner organizations, including members of the national coalition for women's economic rights and decent work. A workshop on women and violence was also implemented. On the 2nd day of the conference, DWRC hosted a workshop by representatives of Italian women's organizations on women and work. Palestinian women participants presented their situation and experiences in relation to employment & labor rights in the Gaza Strip. The discussion also focused on DWRC's services and assistance to women to enable them to obtain decent work opportunities. On the third day, conference participants submitted recommendations and discussed findings. The Italian feminist delegation called for working together with justice and humanity against wars and occupation and supporting women in Palestine. They expressed their hopes that this conference would be the first step for establishing a women's house in Gaza to exchange views, ideas and experiences.

Union Conferences and Elections of Representatives

On 23rd May 23rd, 2022, workers at the **Federation of Churches in Gaza** established their union, upon which they engaged in a collective bargaining process with the management about a number of demands related to labor rights. The establishing conference was attended by 62 members of the general assembly, who discussed & adopted the internal regulation of the union, and elected their representatives.



In June, 44 employees of the **governmental Palestinian Electricity Transmission Company in the West Bank** also organized in a union and elected their leadership during their establishing conference on 11/06/2022.

The newly elected representatives have engaged in consultation process with members to identify priority labor demands.

DWRC contributes in improving the knowledge & skills of media workers on occupational safety and health

Ramallah - 15/06/2022, DWRC implemented a three-days training course on occupational safety and health targeting 16 media workers.



During the first day of the training course, participants improved their skills and knowledge on regulations related to OSH and workers' rights including medical examination, occupational diseases, insurance against work injuries, and how to act in case of being exposed to an injury. During the second and third day, the training course focused on practical exercises, working groups, and deep discussions about work environment, work hazards faced by journalists and media workers, and the roles of the government & trade unions in relation to safety and health at work.

Will those responsible for the killing of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh ever be held to account?



On May 11th, 2022, Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was shot in the head by the Israeli occupying forces, while she was covering an Israeli raid in Jenin (occupied West Bank) for Al-Jazeera channel. Shireen was observing all safety measures, while performing her professional duties of reporting from the field.

This is not a single regrettable incident. There is a constant pattern of targeting of Palestinian and foreign journalists and media agencies by the Israeli occupying forces and Israeli authorities, during or because of their coverage of Israeli violations of the human rights of Palestinians, particularly in the occupied Palestinian territories. In 2021, MADA, the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedom, monitored 368 violations of media freedoms by the Israeli occupying Power, including physical assaults, harassment and arrests. In the context of near total impunity that prevails for actions perpetrated by the Israeli occupying Power in violation of international human rights and humanitarian law, including repeated attacks against journalists and press freedoms, there is little hope that those responsible for Shireen's killing will be held to account, unless the international community takes steps to uphold international law and end the regime of impunity.

In another incident, an Israeli soldier shot and killed Nabeel Ghanem (53 years old), a father of four sons & two daughters, while he was on his way to work on June 18th, 2022. Nabeel was near the Apartheid/Separation Wall in Qalqilya with a number of other workers, when he was shot dead, although he did not pose any threat. The Israeli occupying power retained Nabeel's body for 5 whole days. The killing of Nabeel Ghanem came amidst a renewed Israeli crackdown against Palestinians trying to enter Israel for work purposes through openings in the wall and those working in Israel without permits, during which 2707 workers without permits have already been detained, in addition to some of their employers and drivers.