

Legal Empowerment of the Jerusalemite workers and Access to Justice

Quarterly Report about Violations of Palestinian Workers' rights

01-01-2013 / 31-03-2013

Palestinian workers currently face unemployment and poverty and are subject to the most hideous forms of discrimination, harassment and abuse by the occupation authorities and through the discriminatory rules and procedures imposed on them by the Israeli employers. Recently, and based on the statistics of MSD legal clinic, the number of beneficiaries increased, and in specific, the number of legal consultations related to workers' rights (salaries, working hours, end of service compensations, arbitrary dismissal, etc.).

Not to mention the physical abuse and attacks that workers face while going to and from their workplace by the extremist settlers, and the workplace injuries that they are subject to, due to the lack of safety measures that protect them.

The suffering of the Palestinian worker starts from the break of dawn; when he gets out of his house and heads to work; which is presented in spending several hours at the military barriers and/or checkpoints; the suffering continues at work and until he returns back home in late hours.

MSD works through its monitoring and documentation unit on monitoring the violations that Palestinian workers in Jerusalem face in the labour market and the settlements, MSD also worked on providing legal support and consultations workers and following their cases in the Israeli courts.

Through the past three months, **the following violations against the Jerusalemite workers were documented :**

On 07/01/2013 at around 1:00 a.m. and while he was coming back from his work in West Jerusalem and Jaffa Street in specific, the worker (M.L.) was attacked by a group of settlers after they realized he is an Arab; one of the Jewish guys started hitting him with a wooden stick on his legs, the worker tried to escape but another guy hit him on his leg and he fell on the ground; they started kicking him and hitting him with sticks; the worker (M.L.) was crying for help, so the settlers left the place and left the

worker unable to stand up. He called his employer and told him to call the police, but he never did, he called one of his relatives to come to the place and take him to the hospital; half an hour later, his relative came and he was taken to a health care center; a doctor examined him as he had strong bruises all over his body. Several days later, the worker headed to MSD legal clinic to get a legal consultation; he was given the required consultation about filing a complaint.

On 13/01/2013, Mr. “Nasser” was injured while working in a detergent factory in the Israeli industrial area in Jerusalem; he used to work in filling plastic bottles with substances until he burnt his right hand; he went to his employer and told him that he got injured, his employer told him to go to a health care center. After he went to the health care center, he was transferred to the hospital and given the needed treatment; the doctor asked him to stay home for a week, a few days later, he called his employer and told him that the doctor told him he had to rest for a couple of days, but the employer told him: “If you don’t come to work, then you are fired”. Mr. “Nasser” then went to work and asked the employer to give him a paper stating that he was injured while working; the employer refused to give him such paper and fired him.

On 22/01/2013, the worker (W.Z.) was injured while working; as he works in a metal workshop in Tel-piot area; while cutting a billet, he severely injured his left hand; he was transferred to the hospital and he stayed there for a couple of days. After he got out of the hospital, he called his employer and told him that he isn’t able to work and that he is going to the labour office to report his injury; he asked the employer for all of his formal papers, but the employer refused to give him any paper. After a couple of attempts to obtain the papers, the employer told him to go to court and ask for his papers; the worker headed to MSD legal clinic to receive the legal consultation and support.

On 04/02/2013, Ms. “Najah Kharbatli” came to MSD legal clinic and reported the violations that she was subject to by her Israeli employer a few days ago. Ms. “Najah Kharbatli” worked as a cleaning lady with some of her friends; they used to get out of their houses early in the morning so that they could get to their work in Tel-Aviv at 07:00 a.m., on 02/02/2013 and after they arrived at work, their employer told them that he no longer needs them and that he doesn’t want to work with them ever again. The employer implemented an arbitrary and wrongful suspension towards them without any prior notice and/or without giving any reason.

On 10/02/2013, the worker (M.J.) was shot in his right leg while working in the area of Jerusalem due to a fight that occurred in his work place; and which led to his injury.

On 20/02/2013, around 15 settlers attacked the worker (A.S.) while he was working; A.S works as a dustman in a park in Herbert Samoel area; the attack caused him minor injuries; he then went to the police station to file a complaint.

On 26/02/2013, Mr. “Ali Hussin” headed to MSD legal clinic and reported that his employer fired him for no apparent reason; although he has been working for him since 12 years as a dustman in a supermarket in Al Malha shopping mall in Jerusalem.

On 26/02/2013, a young guy “Mohanad Abu Tayeh” was injured while working in an Aluminum Shop as a result of falling down and breaking his hand; his injury was a result of the lack of safety measures provided to workers while working.

On 01/03/2013, the worker (B.E.) was severely injured while working; as he fell down from a bridge while doing some repairing work. This comes as a result of the neglect of employers towards their employees; the lack of safety measures especially in dangerous areas of work increases the potential of harm and injuries; and not just any injuries but dangerous ones.

On 17/03/2013, the worker (S.A.) was burnt all over his body while working in the Israeli industrial area in the city of Jerusalem as a fire broke out at work; the citizen worked in a bakery and due to neglect, one of the ovens caused the fire. S.A. said that the fire broke out as a result of not changing the gas network inside the oven; thus the gas started leaking and burning everything around it.