



Women's Affairs Technical Committee
"SAWT AL NISA" NEWSPAPER

Annual Report

For the Period
From 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008

In hope for change and continuation, work at the newspaper *Sawt Al Nisa* for the year 2008 commenced, and in view of the political and socioeconomic developments which the Palestinian Territories go through at this stage, the stage which requires great awareness, and spreading awareness between the different strata of the Palestinian society in general and women in particular.

The events shed its effects on the modus operandi of *Sawt Al Nisa* in this period, where the newspaper worked on reflecting the situation on the ground, and the sufferings of the Palestinian women in general through focused portfolios, and portfolios which tackle the traditional thought and practice towards women.

Sawt Al Nisa strived to defend the achievements of the women, and carry it one step forward in view of the general deterioration on the different levels, and that through setting examples of other successful women.

Sawt Al Nisa devoted all its resources; be it human or financial, for keeping the Voice of Women present, in spite of the state of division and regression in the practice of freedoms and rights.

From here stems the importance of the existence of *Sawt Al Nisa*, to express the worries of women with is resulting not only from the general situation and its worries, but for the fact that women are affected by the different vocational and social sectors at all age groups.

Sawt Al Nisa highlights the success of women, her fight for development in the current situation. In addition, it supports the rights of women and provides her support, especially for her right during crises.

The importance of the Voice of Women stems from the fact that it has a provocative mission for the equality of women and her development and self fulfillment, for a democratic society free of all forms of discrimination.

First: Achievements

A: Continuity and Regularity of Issues

The editorial team of the newspaper works within a clear feminist vision for media; this is evident in the clarity of determining several important portfolios which represent a core for lobbying with decision makers. The newspaper issued portfolios which addressed vital issues for women and the Palestinian society, of which are the following:

- Portfolio for issue number 281 which addressed the crime of killing women in the Palestinian society, and the role of the civil society organizations in that matter.
- Portfolio for issue number 282 covered the feminist discourse and the sufferings of women in Gaza Strip under the Israeli Siege and the role of women organizations.
- Portfolio for issue number 283 highlighted the events of the Israeli siege and the difficult circumstances which women go through in Gaza Strip.
- Portfolio for issue number 284 addressed the Israeli siege on Gaza and the sufferings of its people.
- Portfolio for issue number 285 tackled the 8th of March in the Palestinian Society.
- Portfolio for issue number 286 covered the "Land Day" and the role of women for its preservation.
- Portfolio for issue number 287 addressed the issue of detainees in the Israeli jails, the issuance of this number coincided with the "Detainees Day".
- Portfolio for issue number 288 tackled the realities of the Palestinian working women on the occasion of the first of May.
- Portfolio for issue number 289 covered all the aspects of "Al Nakba".
- Portfolio for issue number 290 addressed the detained women in the Israeli prisons, where the issue was titled "The Will of Our Female Detainees Behind the Israeli Bars Do Not Bend".
- Portfolio for issue number 291 tackled the literature of Palestinian women through the heading "Lights on the Convention of Palestinian Women's Literature".
- Portfolio for issue number 302 was the violence against women, in commemoration of the international week for combating violence against women, and the issue's heading was "Let us Have Palestine Free of Violence".

B: Successful Stories

Sawt Al Nisa continued its distinguished work through the appreciation of the different organizations for its role; where the tackled subjects created wide based discussions in the Palestinian Society, and gained the appreciation of the Palestinian civil society organizations as well. The following is some of the reactions of its readers and the civil society organizations on these subjects:

- The editorial team received a number of phone calls commenting on the work of the team and the subjects which tackled the civil society and women such as the civil society organizations, women's organizations, ministries such as the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. In addition to the Working Women's Society, and Birzeit University; where students of the masters degrees in social studies and law consider the newspaper as an indispensable reference for their research work.
- Contacts with the editorial team to obtain contacts with important Palestinian women for interviews with them on the Palestinian radios (e.g. with Ms. Sahar Al Tarteer who was the main character of one of the issues).
- Several calls were received from readers commenting on the published subjects in issues number 281, 283, 286, 287, and 288, positively commenting on the covered subjects and a regular reader of the newspaper from Jenin suggested that a poster be produced from the first page of the newspaper since it expresses vividly the situation through its published photos.
- Regular phone calls were received from the Voice of Palestine requesting the permission to utilize the published subjects on their programmes; be it social or cultural subjects, and to make interviews with women on whom articles were published.
- Periodical calls were received from the General Union of Palestinian Women, after the publication of almost each issue, asking for permission to quote the publication of *Sawt Al Nisa* on the internet of several locations of Arabic sites.
- The Women's Studies Centre requested to obtain the published articles in issue number 257 in order to post on their electronic web site with reference of its source.
- A phone call from Angham Radio Station requesting the permission to broadcast a special programme on the symposium held by *Sawt Al Nisa* around women's health, and to talk about the newspaper and what was issued in its publication number 283. In addition, the same symposium was discussed in the radio programme of WATC Against Silence on the Voice of Palestine.
- The radio programme Future hosted the Chief Editor of *Sawt Al Nisa* to talk about the newspaper and what was issued in its publication number 283.
- Several calls from readers around the health column, in the issue number 283, several calls were received about this column and one reader suggested to publish the phone numbers for doctors and health organizations along with the type of health care provided by them.

- The Sound of Palestine hosted the Chief Editor of *Sawt Al Nisa* to talk about the newspaper and the covered topics on socioeconomic and political issues.
- A large number of interested journalists and writers wish to write for *Sawt Al Nisa* in view of the importance of its objectives, and the fact that it is the only specialized journal on women's issues. Several writers started their distinguished careers in media and journalism via this newspaper.
- A call from Al Hurriyah Radio in Gaza was received inviting the editorial team for a special programme on the feminist media.
- An invitation from Gaza FM Radio to participate in a programme for the Palestinian Centre for Conflict Resolution, on violence against women, the role of media and *Sawt Al Nisa* in awareness raising of the Palestinian society for the rejection of violence against women.
- The Chief Editor participated in the management of the first session of the conference on "a Woman's Dream", which was held by the Palestinian Centre for Conflict Resolution and PINGO, through video conferencing between Gaza and the West Bank during the international week for combating violence against women.

C: Regular Issuance of *Sawt Al Nisa* and the Increase in its Distribution

During this year, the newspaper widely increased its circulation to reach the various governorates of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It distributes 6000 copies in addition to the 17000 copies which are normally distributed along with Al Ayyam Newspaper of each issue. The total number of distributed issues this year reached 506,000 issues.

This year a new way was utilized for the distribution of the newspaper to schools, for example in the governorates of Bethlehem and Toulkarem, it was distributed through the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Following is an example of the distribution of the newspaper in Ramallah:

No.	Organization	Address
1.	Family Planning	Al Irsal Street
2.	Family Health	Al Ir sal Street
3.	Health Care	Al Irsal Street
4.	Democratic and Workers' Rights	Al Irsal Street

5.	Ministry of Education	Al Irsal Street
6.	Muwatin	Behid Muhanna Supermarket
7.	Miftah	Al Rimawi Building
8.	UNDP	Al Rimawi Building
9.	Young Women's Christian Association	Sunawbar Street
10.	Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling	Al Carmel Building
11.	Palestinian National Council	Al Carmel Building
12.	Development Studies / Bir Zeirt University	Opposite Khaled Hospital
13.	Specialized Health Unit	I.D. Office (previously)
14.	Ministry of Sports and Youth	Al Irsal Building
15.	Ministry of Women's Affairs	Near Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
16.	Bisan Centre	Rukab Street
17.	Al Haq Organization	Rukab Street
18.	Tamer Institute	Rukab Street
19.	Working Women Society	Opposite Al Teerah Taxi
20.	Ramallah Public Library	Al Masyoun Street
21.	Union of Women for Social Work	Al Masyoun Street
22.	Kifah Al Mara'	Al Rayyan Building
23.	Palestinian Women's Organization	Ramallah Hospital Street
24.	Al Sheikh Zayed Hospital	Opposite Ramallah Hospital
25.	Abu Rayya Centre	Ramallah Beitunia Street
26.	Khalil Al Sakakini Centre	Lutheran School Street
27.	House of Poetry	Jabal Al Taweel Street
28.	Conrad	Opposite the Seven Towers Building
29.	Ina'sh Al Usrah	Al Bireh
30.	Red Crescent Society	Jerusalem Street
31.	General Union of Palestinian Women	Sateh Marhaba
32.	Palestinian Media Centre	Al Abraj Al Wataniya Building
33.	Al Bireh Public Library	Al Bireh Municipality
34.	Agricultural Relief Society	Opposite Jordan Bank
35.	Union of Palestinian Women	Ramallah Hospital Street
36.	Palestinian National Council	Al Rafideen Round About
37.	Palestinian Technical School	Al Masyoun
38.	Al Qattan Foundation	Rocky Street

39.	PINGO	Al Rafideen Round About
40.	Al Teera College	Al Teera
41.	Palestinian Popular Arts Centre	Al Bireh
41.	Baladna Centre	Al Manarah
42.	Isa'd Al Tufula	Al Bireh Municipality
42.	National Conservatory of Music	Near Ministry of Culture
43.	Ramallah Cultural Palace	Japan Street
44.	German Representative Office	Near Darna Restaurant
45.	British Council	Cairo Amman Bank Building
46.	AMIDEAST	Al Abraj Al Wataniya Building
47.	Irish Representative Office	Al Abraj Al Wataniya Building
48.	Al Qasaba Theatre	
49.	Conflict Resolution Centre	Opposite Al Bireh School
50.	Sharek	Al Irsal Street
51.	Palestinian Youth Union	Near Ramallah Public Library
52.	Faten Association for Loans	Near Al Teera Colloge
53.	Ramallah First Group	Al Teera Street
54.	Orthodox Club	Near Casa Blanca Hotel
55.	Ziryab	Rukab Street
56.	Family Rehabilitation Centre	Al Carmel Building
57.	Women's Rehabilitation Centre	Al Carmel Building
58.	Dar Al Sharq Liltazee'	Al Irsal Street
59.	Palestinian Satelite	
60.	Jerusalem Educational Television	
61.	MAS	Al IbrahimiyeH College Street
62.	Media Policies Office	Near Al Haq
63.	Ministry of Trade and Economy	
64.	Ministry of Social Affairs	Behind Ministry of Tourism
65.	Ministry of Education and Higher Education	
66.	Women's Health Centre	Nablus Street
67.	Arab Women's Union	Al Bireh
68.	Union of Professionals and Workers	Al Hisbeh Street
69.	ASALA	Near Ministry of Tourism
70.	Plaza Mall	

71.	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics	Al Balou'
72.	Ministers Chamber	
73.	Ramallah and Al Bireh Governorate	Um Al Sharayet Street
74.	Ramallah High School for Girls	Ramallah
75.	Al Bireh High School for Girls	Al Bireh
76.	Al Mustakbal Schools	Al Teera
77.	Al Najah Street	Opposite Ministry of Planning
78.	Modern College for Girls	Beitunia Junction
79.	Ibn Sina College	Opposite O'rabi
80.	Medical Relief Society	Al Balou'
81.	Al Makan Restaurant	
82.	Kutlat Nidal Al Mara	
83.	Ministry of Labor	Al Irsal Street
84.	Department of Health Care Professions – Al Quds University	
85.	Women's Work	
86.	Spanish School	Al Balou'
87.	Samiha Khalil School	Sateh Marhaba
88.	Al Awa'el School	Al Masayef
89.	Friends Schools	Ramallah
90.	American School	Al Balou'
91.	Khawla Bint Al Azraq School	Al Bireh
92.	St. Joseph's School	Ramallah
93.	Lutheran School	Ramallah
94.	Beitunia Girls School	Beitunia
95.	Aziz Shaheen School	Ramallah

WATC distributes copies of the newspaper on participants of its workshops and training sessions. The newspaper gets distributed to almost 100 locations in Ramallah alone, including a large number of organizations and public libraries, in addition to distributing other numbers to participants of WATC workshops and training sessions.

- Upon request of UNIFEM in Palestine and their interest in *Sawt Al Nisa* and its covered topics, 400 copies are given to them of each issue for their distribution in 15 remote locations.

- WATC continued distributing bound volumes of *Sawt Al Nisa* and that of 2007 to several public libraries
- A coordinator was appointed in Bethlehem in order to solve the previous problem in the distribution of the newspaper. The coordinator distributed 200 copies of each issue in Bethlehem governorate through colleges, schools, training sessions and workshops.
- In Gaza the distribution of the newspaper in Gaza was smoothly distributed according to a list to 72 locations in Gaza Strip, as well as the numbers distributed along with Al Ayyam newspaper.
- From the period from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, 22 issues were published (from number 281 to number 302). Annex 1 shows the main topics covered by these issues.

Annex 1

1. Issue number 281, published on 17/1/2008 (12 pages) addressed the file of violence and killings of women in view of the siege and lack of security, the role of women's organizations and Palestinian media with women's issues. In addition to the role of safe homes (shelters) for women, and the efforts provided for the protection of women.
2. Issue number 282, published on 7/2/2008 (12 pages) addressed women's discourse and the role of women's organizations in protesting for women's suffering during the Israeli siege, poverty and women selling their jewelry to support their families, and the state of chaos and lack of security and the sufferings of women.
3. Issue number 283, published on 21/2/2008 (12 pages) addressed the Israeli siege and was titled "Will the Siege Terminate", the issue of women's appearance in media, the culture and the position of women, also statistical data showing that one third of Palestinian women suffer from physical violence and marital disputes, and its effect on the psychology of children, among other subjects.
4. Issue number 284, published on 20/3/2008 (12 pages) addressed the Israeli siege and its violation and what women endure in Gaza Strip; poverty, violence, and women studying at school insisting on achieving their dreams. In addition to that, the symposium held by WATC, facts and indicators, requests for comprehensive health policies, subjects on women's health, and the feature of the issue in inventive women (Jumana Haddad).
5. Issue number 285, published on 20/3/2008 (12 pages) addressed the 8th of March titled (For the Palestinian Mother... Life and Hope are Yours). In addition to other subjects (A study on the relationship between violence in the families and the low academic achievement of children), elderly in Palestinian – realities and needs, denial of Palestinian women from motherhood (A bullet in her womb killed her fetus), mothers of martyrs on mothers day – a fresh wound of loss.
6. Issue number 286, published on 3/4/2008 (12 pages) covered the memory of Land Day (We own the will and the land), and various subjects which addressed the relationship of Palestinian women with the land in spite of the endured sufferings.
7. Issue number 287, published on 17/4/2008 (12 pages) covered the file of male and female prisoners in Israeli jails in commemoration of the Day of

- Prisoners. Articles on Palestinian children in jail, and stories of imprisoned mothers. Legal articles on personal status in Tunisia, and inventive women (Salma Khadra Al-Jayyousi).
8. Issue number 288, published on 8/5/2008 (16 pages) addressed women and work in the difficult conditions of the Palestinian people resulting the Israeli siege and continued violations of the occupying forces. In addition to that, the seminar held by WATC on Workers' Day (Severe violations of basic wrights of female workers, and women's participation in the workforce is below expectations). Female workers in Israel and violations of their rights. The feature character of the issue covered (Nadia Zakarneh), women and news, and mothers in Gaza Strip following the loss of the men's source of breadwinning and their fight for survival, legal issues, and women's health.
 9. Issue number 289, published on 22/5/2008 covered "Al-Nakba". This issue covered the sufferings of women who survived Al-Nakba, women's freedom between the past and present, Sawt Al Nisa 's conference, inventive women featuring (Nawal Al Sa'di), Iraqi personal status law, and women's health.
 10. Issue number 290, published on 5/6/2008 covered female prisoners and their unbreakable will, Al Nakba in the memories of Wijdan (Um Khaled) an imprisoned woman and her sufferings in jail, and the story of her family. Violence in the Palestinian society and its societal consequences, and women's health.
 11. Issue number 291 published on 19/6/2008 featured the conference on Palestinian women's literature, and covered several topics of which; literature of amateurs between ambitions and realities of suffering and poverty, does women's work promote her independence, duties of working mothers, the deteriorating health of women under Israeli siege, victims of siege and shortage of fuel. In addition the successful story of the artist (Ameera Al Wathayfee), horizons of women's literature in Palestine, I am the victim of fuel and transportation, and other subjects.
 12. The heading of issue number 292 published on 3/7/2008 was "Our Detainees; stories of never ending steadfastness", this issue handled topics on how female detainees are tortures in the prisons of the occupiers, the sufferings of the children of female detainees, punishment of female prisoners and denying them the right of visitations, feature stories of 5 female detainees sentenced for life and thirteen sentenced for more than ten years, men and women in numbers, the occupying forces decide to demolish the women's centre in Aqaba, early marriage kills the childhood in Gaza, who is responsible for killing the married life, technology competes with wives in bed, when couples communicate through the cell phones, who will

- rescue marital relationships from the monster of technology, as well as the regular columns of the newspaper.
13. Issue number 293 was published on 17/7/2008 with the heading "In memory of its issuance *Sawt Al Nisa* a continued feminist media". This issue addressed several topics of which female and male readers: "*Sawt Al Nisa* Made It", We Want More, The Effect of Divorce on Children and Women, After 12 continuous years of giving in Gaza: *Sawt Al Nisa* in the Eyes of Women, Abu Al Ragheb: I Have a Long Story with *Sawt Al Nisa*, Palestinian Women Lead the Palestinian Public Resistance, Summer Camps in Gaza a Window of Hope, People of Jerusalem are Forbidden to Build Houses and their Identity Cards are Under Threat, Families Living Apart Awaiting the Israeli Approval for Their Reunion, Nassar – This is a Violation Against All Organizations with a National Agenda and We Will Not Give Up, What is the Woman, The Health Corner "Diabetes and Sight".
 14. Issue number 294 published on 31/7/2008 with the heading "In Spite of Continuous Nakba", We are Still Capable of Success, Which Law do we want?, Education is an Insurance Policy for Women in Their Lives, Steps Towards Abolishing Article Number 340 of the Punishment Law, as well as articles on the distinguished achievements of female students in Tawjihi in Palestine, The first student in the literate stream of Tawjihi Hala Al Ahmad: I have accurately expected my results and I will study languages and translation, More than 74% of women in Gaza suffer from violence, Um Omar Al Badri lives an exceptional dream with her Palestinian Passport, Employment of Children is on the Increase Every Summer in Gaza Strip, Conference held by WATC in Gaza "The Gap of Women's Employment is Evident".
 15. Issue number 295 was published on 14/8/2008 and had the heading "You Will Stay With Us", The International Youth Day – Female and Male Youth in Gaza Experiment Life, Media Efforts for Gender Equality – A Specialized Electronic Gate, Special Focus on the Departure of The Great Palestinian Poet Mahmoud Darwish "Darwish has Left ... Death was not Shy of the Mermaid", as well as cultural and social articles which addressed the feminist activist Rida Nateel .. An Other Aspect of Political Oppression in Gaza, The Palestinian Detainee Amal Jum'a Fights Death in the Israeli Prison Cells, Flowers in Al Damon Prison.. A Journey of Torture to the Court, More than 40% of Female Martyrs – Their Last Calls: Open Rafah Borders for the Sick.
 16. Issue number 296 published on 28/8/2008 with the heading "Our children in the new scholastic year – We have the present and the future is ours and the world here", and other subjects such as the abandonment of the unified

- school uniforms in Gaza is depleting the salaries and enforcing the differences between the social classes, Denied from seeing her children for two years and a half..., The increase in tuition feel is a nightmare threatening the future of hundreds of Palestinian students. In addition to reportage about women's worries, Dawlat Hasan an Egyptian hosted in the siege of Gaza, The siege and the internal fight push Gaza youth to think of immigration.
17. Issue number 297 published on 11/9/2008 handled topics such as Who is responsible? (testimonies of women from the siege and the monster of increased prices in Gaza, buy the leftovers of vegetables, Um Abdallah... an example of living the poverty for hundreds of women and families in Gaza) In addition to social reports and health column about the expired foods – a lucrative trade and threat to the future of our children's health, The monster of poverty is the main complaint of women in the month of fasting, A book on globalization and women – women are the main victims of the changes resulting from the globalization of the economy, Illiteracy of women – why?
 18. Issue number 298 published on 25/9/2008 with the heading “We love life tomorrow”, it covered a report from the United Nations about Arab women, the situation of Arab women is deteriorating and the most affected is the Palestinian woman. As well as social reports of which (Gaza feasts? Sadness and poverty and increase in prices, Mothers and sisters of detainees – reopening wounds on every occasion, In the month of Ramadan... families of the detainees suffer during the visits to their children, Women in Jerusalem under the mercy of the Israeli soldiers, Worries of the working class in preparation for Eed Al Fiter.
 19. Issue number 299 published on 16/10/2008 with the heading “Maha Nassar is absent due to death”, other topics were covered such as: poverty pushes them to think of immigration, the difficult economic situation is killing the dreams of the youth in Gaza, Women's innovation and the wall of poverty, The olive tree is present with us, Gaps in the legislations affect the family as a social entity, Giving women their rights is our road to democracy and national unity, Women's health – benefits of coffee for the memory.
 20. Issue number 300 published on 30/10/2008 with the heading “Our roots will stay deep in this land”, topics covered: immigration is on the minds of women too?, Palestinian youth wish to immigrate and suffers from unemployment, Male and female teachers threatened of firing and end of their salaries, other reportage on social issues such as: The Palestinian women and her olives a story of steadfastness in the face of occupation, Women, children and youth are forced to begging in the face of extreme poverty, circumcision of females a brutal act of violence.

21. Issue number 301 published on 13/11/2008 with the heading “The Palestinian women is the steady guard of our fire”, other topics covered such as: Our need for you in commemoration of the departure of our leader Abu Ammar, Challenges that women face today, The Palestinian women... realities and challenges, steadfastness between honoring and its cost, The experience of Palestinian women in political decision making levels, The situation of women in view of the siege and the political disputes. In addition to other subjects such as: Who will stop the so called crimes of honor, Women’s health – the pregnant woman.

Issue number 302 published on 4/12/2008 with a portfolio on violence against women in the international week for combating violence against women, the heading was “Let us have a Palestine free of violence. Violence on the increase, Law for the protection is equal to a women free of violence, the effect of the siege and political split on the family relationships, Till when will the law stay a man? People with special needs a present law with no application, A fighting mother in the battle of education with suffering insisting on life? The timid legislative practice in the face of crimes against women is increasing more of them. **Annex 2**

Special conferences on women’s issues

Sawt Al Nisa adopted a strategy for the discussion of important women’s issues in an in-depth manner through convening specialized conferences and workshops. These workshops attracted specialized people to talk about the different subject, analyze, and discuss. Following are the topics of those conferences:

1. **Conference on Women’s Health held on 3 March 2008**

Women’s health is one of the important issues for women; however, it is neglected by the work of governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Usually, women’s health is discussed from the perspective of child health and the reproductive role of women, and does not focus on the health of women as individuals who have needs. *Sawt Al Nisa* tried to put this topic on the agenda for discussion through convening this conference. The working papers were presented by important figures from both the governmental and non governmental organizations and addressed topics such as reproductive health, breast cancer and other specific female related cancers, chronic diseases, the effect of nutrition on women’s health, and women’s health rights.

2. **Conference on Female Workers held on 21 April 2008**



This conference was held on the occasion of International Labor Day entitled “Women’s Work – Numbers and Indicators”. Several presentations were given by well known professional in the field. The violations of women’s working rights were discussed, the role of labor unions along with civil society organizations to defend the rights of working women. The current situation that working women endure; the Palestinian laws and legislations for the protection of working women, and the sufferings of women versus their rights.

Annex 3
Comment of readers *Sawt Al Nisa*



