

The National Campaign for Social Security

The Palestinian movement for a just Social Security Law

Everyone, as a member of society has the right to social security. Social Security systems are developed to provide social justice and equity to all segments of society. From this point, in 2012, the Palestinian government decided to take a step forward in this regards, and consequently assigned a “representative” national team for social security. Conversely, this “representative” national team suffered from the absence of social cohesion in its structure. Consequently, the problems began to rise on the surface.

Since the national team for social security has been assigned, researchers from Social and Economic Policies Monitor (Al Marsad) , activists and unionists monitored the process in which this law has been formulated and designed. Throughout this period, the research team has conducted literature review to examine the social security systems in the region in addition to conducting a field visit to the social security corporation in Jordan to get a better understanding. Accordingly, Al Marasd team has developed a number of working, policy and research papers in addition to a group of infographics illustrating some of the researchers’ concerns, for instance:

- 1) The distribution of participation percentages of employee and employer- comparing the proposed law with other applied laws in the region, in addition to comparing the benefits that local employers provide to their employees,
- 2) Women in informal economy are excluded from this system because they are under paid,

Al Marsad research team shared their observations and findings on several occasions with some members of the National Team of Social Security. Unfortunately, the national team overlooked these comments and furnished the draft to the Palestinian cabinet in October 2015.

It is worth mentioning that the final draft that was raised by the representative of the national team to the cabinet was never shared with national team members. Only the employer-employee contributions’ sheet was shared and signed by only two workers’ unions- that are officially assigned by the PA, the representative of the private sector and the ILO representative in Palestine. It is also important to pinpoint the fact that the National Team for Social Security has only met for four times during this period.

On the other hand, despite all observations and comments raised by the research team and other legal experts; the Palestinian cabinet approved the draft law on February 16, 2016. On March 7, 2016, the PA president approved the law. Al Marsad took the initiative to call for a meeting to discuss next steps to be taken in this regards. A group of social activists, unionists, legal experts, civil society members participated in the meeting. A list of actions was concurred, most importantly to examine all sections of the new law and raise our concerns to the public. As a result, all efforts and expert opinions were

combined to initiate the National Campaign for Social Security to advocate against this law and demand to terminate it before the date it becomes effective.

Surprisingly, it came to our attention after examining the draft that has been approved by the cabinet and the one that has been signed by the president and published, that several sections were altered on the draft law. Therefore, our group of legal experts was consulted to assess the impact of these alterations on this law. The input of the legal experts was alarming; the alterations affect the essence of the law, such as, 1) the state is no longer a guarantor of the social security fund and 2) the pension fund is obligatory and all savings and pension accounts of employees and workers are to be transferred to the new provident fund. Furthermore, a number of valid inquiries and notes on other sections of the law were raised as well by gender, legal, social and economic experts.

The national campaign for social security decided to conduct an urgent national conference on April 5, 2016 to discuss the pitfalls of this system, the campaign's demands and the urgent need to terminate it. Invitations were sent out to a large number of concerned unions, associations, workers and employers of the private sector, private schools, universities and members of civil society. More than 500 participants attended the conference; and came up with a number of action points, most importantly to extend the activities of the national campaign into a massive social movement, in order to demand the stop the enforcement of this law and to conduct a vast and representative social dialogue.

As a follow up to the national conference, a meeting was conducted between the campaign's secretariat members and the date was set for a protest to raise the people's voices to the cabinet. Accordingly, the National Campaign for Social Security received a number of invitations from the Ministry of Labour, Parliament members, the ILO and the President's office to discuss the campaign's observations on the law and demands. Alas, the meeting with the ILO was cancelled. Meanwhile, the meetings with the other parties were effective, they have all reached consensus that the notes and observations on the law were valid and the law needs to be frozen and re-visited.

On April 19, 2016 thousands of demonstrators got together in Ramallah to demand the freezing of this law, because it 1) overlooked large segments of the society, such as the workers in the informal economy, PwD, women 2) many sections are vague and can be interpreted differently when the law becomes effective 3) doesn't provide social justice and equity.

As a response, the cabinet declared that they agree to initiate a committee steered by the Minister of Labour to examine the demands of the National Campaign for Social Security.

The campaign agreed on starting the dialogue with the Ministerial committee. It also declared continuing the activities until the law is changed.

الحملة الوطنية للضمان الاجتماعي



بنأثر...

الحملة الوطنية للضمان الاجتماعي



القرار.. بإيدنا

الحملة الوطنية للضمان الاجتماعي