



2013/6/26

**A statement issued by Human Rights and Democracy Media Center
"SHAMS"**

On the occasion of World Day Against Torture

Stop torture..... Torture is an offense against human dignity

On the occasion of World Day Against Torture on 26th of June, which has been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its decision No 149/52 on the 12th of January in 1997, which aim at eliminating all kinds of torture and achieving the efficiency of Anti-Torture Convention and other cruel, humiliating and inhuman treatment adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10th of January in 1984 , "SHAMS" center **reminds** that torture is considered as a crime by virtue of International Law and it is completely prohibited and can't be justified in light of any circumstance according to related international instruments, while prohibiting torture is considered as a part of International Customary law and it is obligatory for all the members of international community regardless if the country has already ratified the conventions which prohibit torture or not.

"SHAMS" Center **condemns** systematic killing and torture patterns and the immoral measures inflicted by the Israeli occupation forces and interrogators on the Palestinian prisoners. It also condemns racist, ethical and religious discrimination practiced by the occupying state against the people of Palestine. Israel is the only state in the world that codifies torture openly under the pretext of "security" and practices racial discrimination. This kind of discrimination is violence in its nature because it motivates torture cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment. In light of all that, we demand the international community to stand firm against such systematic acts that run counter to human values and principles and to bring torturers to justice.

رام الله : فلسطين:الماصيون،عمارة سنديان3 ،ط1،شارع لويس فافرو ، ص.ب: 429

Ramallah: Palestine: AL- Masuon: Sendian3 Building 1st Floor, Luis Favro St

Fax: 02 2985255 Tel: 022985254 P.O. Box: 429

E-mail: c_shams@hotmail.com info@shams-pal.org , Web site: www.shams-pal.org



"SHAMS" center **calls** the Palestinian government for joining Anti-torture Convention and other cruel, humiliating and inhuman treatment as much as possible in addition to the annexed optional protocol by which Anti-torture minor committee was formed, as well as encouraging to formulate an independent national mechanism to monitor and visit arrest's places. This comes in line with the presidential decision and instruction by Mr. president Mahmoud Abbas about emphasizing that all related sides of arrest, detention or investigation should abide by texts of the Basic Law and associated laws which prevent torture's forms, prohibit humiliating treatment and prevent any behavior which deteriorate the human dignity. And emphasizing the importance for respecting international conventions, agreements, charters and declarations connected with respecting human rights in order to high light the civilization feature of the Palestinian people according to the report (18) of Independent Commission for Human Rights for 2013.

"SHAMS" center **claims** parties to unify all possible efforts significantly by the country, civil society organizations in addition to UN several entities in order to work and collaborate effectively to enhance and protect human rights, to oppose torture besides other cruel inhuman treatment, to assist and rehabilitate victims in addition to punish perpetrators and fight against crime locally, regionally and internationally.

"SHAMS" center **recommends** the importance to provide periodic reports in line with international standards for writing these reports, and to include standards starting from model regulations for treating detainees, offering medical services and cure taking into consideration that civil society organizations, mass media and legal centers are involved in the preparation of these reports so as to be identified by all sides. As well, to provide legal guarantees within investigation or arrest and to have the right to submit complaints regarding their treatment and to have immediate judgments about the legality of these applications, detention or causes



according to fair efficient regulations adopted by independent commissions regarding the accused sides. And the substance to follow legal procedures against perpetrators when they are committed to torture, to supply the necessary protection for detainees and witnesses, to prepare a joint plan in which human rights organizations, bar association, Ministry of Justice and other related sides are involved with clear tasks for each party in addition to set a strategy that secures legal cultural development for detainees according to objectives and regulations based on international legal bases as well as rules and principles stated by the United Nations for 1985 in order to prepare and rehabilitate them with the society in line with specific bases and controls besides related international organizations.

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