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**A statement for immediate release issued by
Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"
On the occasion of International Day against Torture and other Cruel and Inhuman
treatment**

Stop torture It humiliates the human dignity

"SHAMS" Center **condemns** systemized torture and unethical measures against the Palestinian detainees practiced by the Israeli soldiers and investigators, in addition to racial discrimination and ethnic religious superiority of Israel against the Palestinian people as Israel is the only state in Israel which legalize torture, while racial discrimination is originally includes violence so, this will motivate torture and inhuman cruel treatment. Hence, request the international community to stand firmly against savage actions against the human values, principles and customs and to judge perpetrators.

"SHAMS" Center **emphasizes** that prohibiting torture is considered obligatory therefore; countries are requested to be committed to prohibit torture and punishment through prevention which is the primary method for combating torture. Considering torture prohibition as an obligatory rule comes in line with international regulations in regard to war and crimes against humanity, and torture prohibition is another factor for stopping escape from punishment for perpetrators of violations against human rights. Besides, torture prohibition represents a fundamental base which is universal specialization signifying integration between internal and external judicial authority.



"SHAMS" Center **reminds** article (17) of the optional protocol annexed to Anti-torture Convention implies that each member state should keep or establish a national preventive independent mechanism or more for prohibiting torture in the local level, within duration of a maximum one year. This accord with Palestine's accession to Anti-torture Convention and other kinds of cruel inhuman treatment, and accord with the decision and instructions of the President Mahmoud Abbas about confirming that all sides related to arrest and investigation should be committed to texts of the Basic Law and related laws which prohibit all kinds of torture, ban humiliating treatment and prevent behaviors which influence the human dignity, and confirming the respect to international conventions, charters and declarations about respecting human rights. In order to highlight the civilized face of the Palestinian people according to the report of the Independent Commission for Human Rights no. (18) for 2013.

"SHAMS" Center **stresses** that one of the most effective manners for prohibiting torture is countries' commitment to criminalizing torture, punishing perpetrators and combating the phenomenon of escape from punishment, and usually perpetrators escape from punishment because of the difficulty in proving the crime of torture particularly in the absence of torture effects because of disappearance or using untraceable ways of torture or having a psychological torture.

"SHAMS" Center **requests** training and raising the awareness for the enrollers of the Palestinian security institution through organizing educational and training programs in regard to prohibiting torture for all workers in the field of implementing laws like civilians, soldiers, workers in medical jobs and others who are related to detaining, investigating or arresting individuals. The center also calls for establishing independent entities for submitting complaints through which torture complaints are checked fairly and immediately, while the state should guarantee protection for people who submit complaints and eye-witnesses from bad treatment and scaring.

"END"