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

**What are the steps following Palestine's accession to Convention against
Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment?**

"SHAMS" center **condemns** the systemized torture actions committed by Israeli soldiers and investigators against the Palestinian detainees in the Israeli prisons. Israeli is the only state that permits torture through the resolution of the Israeli Supreme Court of 1996 which allows investigators to use physical pressure (moderate) against Palestinian detainees. Israel is the first country whose citizens support practicing torture against the so called "terrorists", also, Israel is considered of the first countries which manufacture and export torture tools like shackles, fetters and chuffing chairs according to a report issued by Amnesty International. In addition to the use of chemical materials which cause paralysis, nerves' gas, toxics, tear gas and electrocution tools.

Therefore, Israel is the state of terrorism which violates international conventions and treaties. This was mentioned within a press release issued by SHAMS center on the occasion of International Day against Torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment according to the General Assembly of the United Nations' resolution 39/46 of December 10, 1984 in June 26.

"SHAMS" center **reminds** that access to Convention against and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment requires submitting periodic reports by Palestine based on international standards, starting from model regulations to treat detainees and supply with medical services. In addition to provide legal guarantees practically during the interrogation or arrest, and to promise that each person has to submit complaints regarding their treatment, and that judiciary issues the judgment without delay on the legitimacy of the arrest. In addition to take legal procedures against officers who committed torture crimes and to provide necessary protection for detainees and witnesses. And to outline a joint plan from



human rights organizations as well as the Independent Commission for Human Rights, Bar Association, Ministry of Justice and other sides, and to arrange functions according to certain strategies including legal and cultural development for the detainees by virtue of UN regulations of 1985 to pave the way for getting them involved and rehabilitated.

"SHAMS" center **stresses** that principle of prohibiting torture comes in line with international regulations that consider war crimes and crimes against humanity are not outdated. This principle constitute another factor for combating escape from punishment and holding responsibility for those who committed gross human rights violations. The principles enhances the rule of universal specialization which represents the connection between national and international judiciary from one side, and putting restrictions on those who commit torture on the others side.

"SHAMS" center **calls for** formulating a national committee against torture, and it should be taken as a priority based on the optional Protocol annexed to Convention against Torture Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of 2002. This is not only important for banning torture and having redress for victims, but also emphasizing that Palestinian Basic Law is moving forward to respect dignity of citizens and promote human rights law. Establishing such committee indicates that Convention against Torture will constitute a part of the applicable Palestinian legislations and it will be used within national courts. It also signifies having accord between national legislations and Convention against Torture since the Basic Law in the second caption of rights and freedoms article (13) stipulates that "it is not allowed to force and afflict anyone or to treat accused people and detainees indecently". The Palestinian legislators did well when it incriminates torture in the Basic Law, but it is necessary to issue a law for banning torture as a practice and as a culture.

"END"

Human Rights & Democracy Media Center

"SHAMS"



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