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Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"

Condemns issuing death penalty against a citizen in Gaza city by the permanent Military Court

"SHAMS" center **condemns** issuing death sentence against the citizen (N. A) who is 37 years old living in Aldaraj district in Gaza city. The court issued death sentence by shooting on Monday 24/8/2015 , which constitutes a military sentence that contradicts article 131 of the Palestinian Revolutionary Penal Law of 1979.

"SHAMS" center **stresses** that depending on the Revolutionary Penal Law issued by the Palestinian Liberation Organization of 1979 breaches the Palestinian Basic Law. The revolutionary is considered being unconstitutional since it isn't ratified by the Legislative Council, and some of its articles break the International Bill of Human Rights and related international conventions.

"SHAMS" center **reminds** of the increasing cases of death sentences issued in Gaza Strip as the number is 4 in so, death sentences have increased to 159 ones since 1994 including (132) ones in Gaza Strip and (27) in the West Bank. 74 death sentences have been issued since 2007, and since the establishment of Palestinian National Authority, it has executed 32 ones including 30 in Gaza Strip and 2 in the West Bank. Moreover, 19 death sentences were executed without the approval of the Palestinian president violating laws.

"SHAMS" center **calls for** abolishing death penalty of the Palestinian legislations since it represents a horrific type of willful killing. It is also a harsh terrible punishment doesn't meet the purpose and it can't be cancelled when executed even if the sentenced person is innocent. Also, it calls for expanding the support and advocacy for International Coalition Against Death Penalty, and to unify efforts so as to get rid of death penalty.

"SHAMS" center **appeals** the President of Palestinian National Authority to not ratifying death sentences, and to use constitutional authorities to conduct necessary procedures for abolition of death penalty from the Palestinian legislations.

"End"