

2016/10/17

**Issuing three death sentences in less than two weeks**

**"SHAMS" Center convicts inflicting a death sentence upon a citizen by the Court of First Instance in Deir Albalah**

"SHAMS" center **convicts** inflicting death by handing upon the citizen (M.H) by the Court of First Instance in Deir Albalah, in Gaza Strip on Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup>. The citizen was accused of intentional killing which breaks the articles of the Palestinian Law. The Panel for Serious Crimes in the Court of First Instance of Deir Albalah accused the citizen of killing Jaber Nimer Hassan by hitting him at with an iron.

"SHAMS" center **reminds** that capital punishment is being issued in alarming rate in the Palestinian territories. In less than two weeks, three death sentence have been issued. In 2016 particularly, 17 death sentences have been issued until 16/10/2016 which indicates a serious phenomenon. This warns of the hazardous consequences due to inflicting death sentences in this way. And gives a space for doubting the procedures of courts, guarantees for fair trials and the court's compliance with the pressure of local public opinion.

"SHAMS" center **assures** that death penalty doesn't deter crimes or perpetrators since it is inefficient to stop crimes. Using death penalty symbolizes escape and overlooking the real causes behind the continuous murders and crimes in Gaza Strip. Accordingly, we should assume a collective responsibility and answer questions pertaining to the increasing number of crimes. In terms of the effects of the crimson the Palestinian community, causes behind the crimes, mechanisms to deter the crimes and other deterrent manners.

"SHAMS" center **is concerned** about the time of inflicting death sentences, when the whole world is celebrating World Day against Death Penalty on October 10<sup>th</sup>. This annual occasion indicates the cultural, social, political development of nations and reminds of the disadvantages of resorting to the capital punishment and encourages efforts toward reducing or the abolition of death penalty for all crimes.

"SHAMS" center **calls for** respecting the approaches of the Palestinian leaders for the purpose of accession to additional human rights treaties which guarantee the right to life. The center also urges the Palestinian National Authority to sign the Second Protocol of 1989 Annexed to the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights on the abolition of death penalty. It also urges the Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas



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so as not to approve death sentences, and to use his constitutional powers aiming to abolish the capital punishment from Palestinian legislations.

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