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**A statement for immediate release issued by  
Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"  
On the occasion of International Women's Day**

**"SHAMS" center appreciates the struggle of the Palestinian woman**

"SHAMS" center strongly **condemns** unethical excesses, violations, and inhuman measures practiced by the Israeli soldiers against the Palestinian women. Such violations and measures assure that Israeli military forces don't take honor into consideration, while the Israeli weapon is not clean since it represents the occupying and brutal army. Israeli measures don't only indicate gross violations against human rights, but also indicate the absence of ethics. It represents violence and dominance of unethical values among the Israeli soldiers as a consequence of their fragile military system. The Israeli occupation infringes upon International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law particularly Geneva Conventions of 1949 and its annexed protocol of 1977. Additionally, it infringes the 1951 Refugees Convention, and its protocol of 1967, CEDAW of 1977 and its optional protocol of 1999 and the Security Council Resolution 1325.

"SHAMS" center **stresses** that it is no longer acceptable or justified to get involved in traditional and outdated dialogue about is it allowing political participation for woman. Or questioning whether women are able to manage the public affair or not. In some communities, woman assumes advanced positions, while we are still participating in worthless debates on woman's eligibility to drive a car or to travel alone. Also, whether is it allowed to work in stores of women's underwear? Or is it permitted for a Shiite girl to marry a Sunni man? Is requesting woman's rights regarded as a western novelty and idea? In light of the continuous issuing of Fatwas pertaining to woman's rehabilitation, literacy, and resolving daily problems of the Arabic citizens. Hence, the question that arises what is the cause of political failure in regard to solving national issues? Do males are the only decision-maker in this area which is filled with subjugation.



"SHAMS" center **emphasizes** that development of woman's rights grounds on having accordance between the prevailing national legislations and international standards for human rights, and the capacity of the State of Palestine to alter the legislations which restrict woman's rights. It also grounds on Palestine's accession to international treaties, ratifying it and lifting reservations. Moreover, including related international treaties and conventions within curricula of security and police faculties, and advancing mechanisms of submitting complaints. It is also important to develop a national action plan to implement the 1325 resolution in assistance with local and international institutions as well as researchers. The plan should take woman's special needs into consideration in the cities, villages, camps and the needs of female detainees. It should also address and heal the serious effects of family separation, checkpoints which hinder the right to movement and the apartheid discrimination wall on woman's psychological and physical health. Besides, it is necessary to address the economic situation, opportunities of education, renewing gender-based educational curricula to handle stereotypical images for woman, and the importance role premised on mass media. Universities should also highlights the 1235 resolution in the curricula within woman's Studies' Center and Human Rights Program, and encourage conducting related studies and researches.

"SHAMS" center **reminds** that mass media still present woman in a traditional image or in a covered image similar to the western stereotype in spite of the technical development. This will keep sexual exploitation for woman since woman is presented in specific negative image. Due to the influence of the image at present, woman finds themselves forced to adopt the negative image and to change so as to decorate this image to be appropriate with modernity. This image doesn't reflect the real woman and her aspirations so; it is hard to have a balanced image for women who are capable to be ambitious mothers and to prove themselves. It is worth noting that the social role undertaken by woman isn't less important than her role as a mother.

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