

2017/3/29

A statement for Immediate Release

Issued by Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS”

About confirming a death sentence by the Court of Appeal, against a citizen in Gaza Strip

"SHAMS" center strongly condemns the sentence issued by the Court of Appeal in Gaza Strip on Wednesday 29/3/2017, against the citizen Hosni Fathi Shaqora / *Jabalia*. The death sentence was inflicted by the Court of First Instance upon the citizen Hosni who was accused of murdering Hajja Samiha Awadallah. It is worth mentioning that Hajja Awadallah 72 years old was lost on 18/2/2016. Later, she was found a dead body in her house following 8 days inside the stockroom. She was found suffocated with a plastic room and beaten by a sharp tool on her head.

“SHAMS” center **assures** its support and solidarity with families and parents of victims. It clarifies that calling for abolition of the death sentence against perpetrators in serious crimes doesn't indicate tolerating them, but replacing the death sentence with other punishment to respect individuals' humanity and dignity. The capital punishment represents the cruelest form of intentional murder. It is irreversible, the risk of executing an innocent person can never be eliminated. While people who were sent to death row have later been exonerated sometimes.

“SHAMS” center **puts emphasis** on respecting the efforts and approaches of the Palestinian leaders aiming to accede human rights conventions which guarantee the right to life. The center appeals to the Palestinian National Authority PNA to sign the Second Optional Protocol of 1989, annexed to the International Covenant on political and Civil Rights, on the abolition of death penalty. Moreover, the center appeals to the Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas so as not to ratify death sentences, and to use his constitutional powers to abolish death penalty from the Palestinian legislations.

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