

## **Statement for Immediate Release**

### **Statement issued by the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy "SHAMS" On the occasion of World Day against the Death Penalty**

SHAMS center confirms the need to abolish the death penalty from the Palestinian legislation, and the categorical rejection of the use of the death penalty regardless of the nature of the crime or the characteristics of the offender or methods of committing the crime, and stresses on the right to life which stands on top of all the rights and basic entitlements.

SHAMS center emphasizes that the application of the death penalty does not prevent the crime nor does it deter the offender, and that the death penalty is a punishment that can't be reversed once applied, and, therefore, strengthening the rule of law and ensuring equal application of the law on everyone without discrimination, is the guarantee for the maintenance of rights and security.

The Center believes that working on abolishing the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and progressive development of human rights, and that there is a continuous tendency in many democratic societies towards the abolition of the death penalty, replacing it with imprisonment for life.

The center stresses on the need to continue the actual freezing of application of death penalty which is currently adhered by the Palestinian National Authority as a step towards the abolition of this punishment from the Palestinian legislation.

In this regard, the center demands the dismissed government in Gaza strip to stop issuance of death penalties and to cease immediate application of this harsh punishment.

SHAMS center appreciates efforts of the Palestinian Ministry of Justice and civil society institutions that have worked seriously towards the completion of a draft Palestinian penal code that reflects the needs of the community and protects the basic rights and entitlements.

Finally, SHAMS center salutes the immense and tireless efforts made by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, represented by issuing a "stance paper" on the death penalty. In this context, we call upon the civil society institutions to coordinate their positions and to support efforts in this regard in order to deliver strong voice on behalf of the civil society organizations.

**END**