

A statement released by the Human Rights and Democracy Center "SHAMS"
Annulment of a Palestinian Marriage accused of heresy and clear endorsement
for murder

"SHAMS" Center witnesses the extreme danger on the agent of the public attorney's office on personal conditions in the North of the occupied West Bank in the name of civil public rights, to request from the civil courts in the town of Atil in the providence of Tulkaram in divorcing Mrs. Samah Mahmoud Abd Al Jaleel Alawnah from her husband Mr. Mohammad Rida Abd Al Kareem Alawneh from the Village of Azmut to the east of Nablus and dividing between them, on charges of belonging to the Ahmedian Sect and leaving the religion of Islam, if that is considered a straightforward violation to the scripts of the fundamental Palestinian law especially, article(9) which reassures that Palestinians are all equal in the eyes of the law and courts, and does not differentiate on race, or sex, or color, or religion, or political opinion, or impairment, and also a violation to the script of article (18) of the same law which reassures the guarantee of the freedom to beliefs and worship and the practice of religious rituals, without the disruption of the general order or the public morals.

The "SHAMS" Center warns from the increasing phenomena of sectarian discrimination against the Ahmedians in Palestine, as such this is a grave violation of personal freedoms and rights, and the assaults against this sect is against the individual's right to freedom of religion and belief, and the right to marry and form a family.

The "SHAMS" Center affirms that the decisions of the courts that promotes the encouragement of violence and murder. And that these decisions violates the consent of marriage agreement, and the minimum age of marriage, and the recording of the marriage contracts that were signed and approved and were joined based on the decision of the general assembly of the UN 1763 thousand (17-d) registered on the 7th of November 1964 especially articles (1) & (2) & (3) of the agreement. And as the center had mentioned earlier the dangerous claims and negative effects that will befall this family and other Palestinian center due to these inhuman procedures in addition to the negative effects of dismantling families, and the prohibition of marriage and the forming of a family, and the appearance of odd social phenomena in the Palestinian community.

The "SHAMS" Center confirms that these decisions violate religious freedoms that are guaranteed legally and internationally under human rights and international charters of relating criteria, as well as national laws and in the forefront of the fundamental Palestinian that was added in the year 2003 where this decision represents a violation against public and personal freedoms that were written according to the previous laws mentioned, and article (18) of the

International declaration for human rights, and article (18) of the international pledge for personal civil and political rights.

The "**SHAMS**" Center sees that the oppression and lack of religious tolerance and what relates to that with racial and sectarian hatred and discrimination towards specific classes of people and affects in large form on familial peace within the Palestinian community that is diverse in its races, religions, beliefs, sects, attitudes, as well as political and religious affiliations, and therefore the followers of the religions and sects and beliefs should enjoy full freedoms and rights without discrimination or fear or persecution due to color, or sex, or race, or religion, or social stand, and thus the final decisions of the courts attempt to pressure a sect to change its convictions and beliefs, and that falls under the frame of removal and sectarian cleansing other sects, considering that this is a beginning in that direction.

The "**SHAMS**" Center reaffirms the freedom of belief as a guaranteed right to whole of humanity and that the public and personal freedoms are a red line that should not be crossed, therefore the center calls out to you in order to end the decision to annul the marriage that was done by the legal courts of Palestine, and the center is preparing all human rights groups, on a local, Arabian, regional, and international scale to stand firmly against these dangerous violations.

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