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A Statement for immediate release by
The Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"
On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day "Year of Arab's media
Freedom"

"SHAMS" Center reminds that protection of journalists should not be limited to situations of armed conflicts. In many of the world's countries, journalists are arrested, assaulted and are forced to practice self censorship under pressure from oppressive governments, it is the state's responsibility to protect journalists and to cease all forms of oppression in a bid to enforce its control over the free flow of information. Free media is not only useful, but a necessity for the freedom of society through revealing human rights violations and as being the voice of those who have no voices in society, the media can in the best conditions encourage the proper implementation for justice and stir dialogue on necessity to respect human rights and public freedoms in an attempt to remove the fuse of confrontation of a costly conflict. When journalists face unjust constrains and intimidation of assault and arrest, as well as compelled to self censorship, these measurements will certainly feed violence in society and will lead for concealment of serious human rights violations and plant despair and frustration in the marginalized societies.

"SHAMS" center condemns what journalists endure in terms of grave violations that range from physical and verbal assault and swearing, confiscation and destruction of equipments, arrests, deterring their duties, interrogations, arbitrary arrests, intimidations, censorship, detention, and attacks on homes and properties, which all constitute flagrant legal violations of human rights agreements, declarations, and conventions. Journalists are not the enemies or opponents of certain parties nor are biased to certain agendas, but they are indeed enemies and opponents of human rights & freedoms violators, as they are always bias to the truth and to cover events honestly and in professional manner.

"SHAMS" Center calls upon the International Federation of Journalists to exert its efforts in order to guarantee the safety and protection of journalists in situations of armed conflict similar to Human Rights worker and UN employees, and stresses the need to protect them from being target of different kinds of assault, the center also demands the importance of the immediate release of journalists and bloggers prisoners and detainees around the world.



“SHAMS” Center emphasizes on the necessity of having a diverse and independent media capable of providing free flow of information. Freedom of press forms -especially in regard to political and social causes- the basis of any democratic system. Freedom of press and level of its independence is an indicator on level of democracy of any political system; it is difficult for independent media channels to exist without having support form different organizations and parties. The support of independent media channels must be tied to wider ranged efforts that support democracy and rule of law and human rights principles. The future of the freedom of press in many countries around the world especially developing ones requires strong engagement and support of the political, social and economic elite in the society in order to create social lobby that demands freedom of media.

“SHAMS” Center greets in honor and respect all journalists, bloggers, and other practitioners in the field of media for their careers, whom defended faithfully and truthfully the worries of their people. We also salute all Palestinian and international journalists as well as various news agencies and TV stations (local and international) for their efforts to expose truthfully the practices and policies of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people.

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