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**Statement issued by the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy "SHAMS"
On the occasion of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the
International Day of Human Rights Defenders**

“SHAMS” center recalls that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remains a significant document inspired the human rights movement and formed a reference document for related standards, laws and conventions, the Declaration has become a basis for continuing to broaden and deepen the concept of human rights. The proclamation came after the horrors and tragedies suffered by the peoples, and after the gross violations of human rights. It is now well known that number of rights contained in the Declaration has become part of customary international law. There for, the declaration constitutes the first step to set relevant conventions devoted to the content of the Declaration and its principles. The basis of European Convention on Human Rights (1950), the International Covenants on Human Rights (1966) , the American Convention on Human Rights (1969), the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (1981) and the Arab Charter for Human Rights (1994) are all derived from the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“SHAMS” center is gravely concerned about the international silence on the continuing violations by the state of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people that are incongruous with all international conventions and relevant international treaties, thus, the center calls upon the international community the need to take responsibility and work towards ending the suffering of the Palestinian people and the need to work to ending the last occupation on earth, the center also calls upon the need to work on forming a broader coalition of human rights movement to expose the Israeli violations against the Palestinians and to bring war criminals to trial the International justice.

The center emphasizes that human rights defenders are the front line for protection of human rights, and therefore , it is necessary to work on providing protection for defenders against repeated attempts by either the political systems or by some religious and political trends designed to impede their work and hinder their role, also the center calls upon all Governments the need to facilitate the tasks and work of the defenders and allow free access to information and to allow them freely practice their oversight on human rights situation specially that defenders of human rights continue to be subjected, in every region of the world, to threats, killings, enforced disappearances, torture ,ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, surveillance, harassment, and defamation.



The center highly appreciates the outstanding efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and its partners in all parts of the world, which works to promote global awareness of human rights, and increasing international efforts to stop human rights violations, and to consider the 10th of December 2010 a day for Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and consider this day as a day against discrimination. This establishes for a new era of human rights work in Palestine, based on professionalism and reaffirms the international interest on promoting human rights and freedoms.

“SHAMS” center Calls upon Palestinian NGOs, especially human rights institutions the need for joint action on sustainable and permanent basis, and to increase level of synergy and cooperation specially in joint activities and to graduate from the status of retreat, elitism, factionalism and hectic competitiveness, and to involve in active participation on the ground, and to work in the field with the poor and marginalized groups for the sake of human rights principles and values.

Finally, the center calls upon the Palestinian National Authority the need to protect and respect human rights values and maintain and guarantee public freedoms, and to work on enactment of new laws, and create the relevant legal environment responsive to needs of human rights and public freedoms.

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