



2019/1/29

A statement for immediate release
Issued by Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"
Concerning the imposition of death sentence against a citizen by Khan Younis
Court of First Instance

"SHAMS" Center **condemns** the imposition of death by hanging sentence against the citizen (Y/A') by Khan Younis Court of First Instance today, Tuesday 29/1/2019. The said citizen was convicted of willful killing by the Trial Panel, in the case of murdering the citizen Mahasen Awad Abu Shlouf. It is worth noting that the citizen Mahasen Awad Abu Shlouf was murdered on 19/1/2016.

"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 **stresses** that respect for international Covenant by internal laws & regulations especially regarding to the legal power. This represents a guarantee for human rights and as a recommendation so as not break the internal judicial power applied in any state, declared by human rights conventions and treaties. It is worth noting that stipulating rights and freedoms within laws and the constitution will not guarantee enjoying such rights and freedoms by citizens on the ground. Furthermore, enjoying basic rights and freedoms isn't only an internal affair, but also an international matter to make sure that human rights and basic freedoms are guaranteed by international treaties.

"END"