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**A statement for immediate release****Issued by Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"****On the occasion of World Day against Death Penalty**

"SHAMS" center **stresses** that death penalty represents extreme cruelty, inhumanity and indignity, it is also a punishment that can't be canceled if executed and it may be done for innocent people. As well, it hasn't been approved that it represents a more efficient restriction against crimes compared to other punishments, and within death penalty, it is impossible to reform the sentenced individual and this is one of the purposes that the country should seek for when assigning the punishment even as minor objectives and punishment.

Death penalty forbids the country from labor force that may contribute to production especially after work in jails has become a factor for raising production. This penalty also can't be canceled if it has been executed since the sentenced individual may be innocent because legal mistakes aren't usually rare and human justice is relative, and the majority of positive legislations state the right to correct sentences' mistakes, as well it is unfair punishment since it can't be gradated according to perpetrators' responsibility, the scope of their danger and what has been harmed.

"SHAMS" center **claims** government of Gaza to immediately stop executing death sentences in Gaza Strip as it contradicts the International Bill of Human Rights, also these sentences is a legal and constitutional breach since it implies the approval of the president Mahmoud Abbas. This signifies that ratifying death sentences is an exclusive right for the president of the Palestinian National Authority by virtue of criminal procedures No (3) for 2001 and that executing any sentence without getting the approval of the president contradicts the texts of the Basic Law and law's regulations.

"SHAMS" center **emphasizes** that countries which executes death sentence breach the rules and standards of justice and infringe upon an essential right for humans which is right to life without the minimum consideration for human dignity which is linked with him/herself and correlated with him/her since birth which is attributed to innocence regardless of his/her behaviors and crimes which reflects his/her social and economic circumstances which formed the motives for such works. Hence, the responsibility of the country is to preserve human life and dignity since the ruling authority is originated to manage the country's as well as citizens' affairs in addition to save their lives and sustenance and these represent the reason and justification for its existence so, if it is diverted from its role it will lose the base for its legitimacy.



“SHAMS” center **perceives** that starting from the public principles and objectives, legislations should be human and removed away from violence or revenge within criminal approaches and it should be drafted in line with tolerance and reform. As well, handling criminal issues can't be done away from knowing reasons and circumstances for perpetrating it then it will be within reform's methods so as to serve the community and individuals and to aim at protecting human rights headed by right to life since life is a gift from God and no one is allowed to dominate over it or decide its determination under revenge or assigning death sentence against criminals.

“SHAMS” center **reminds** that international community represented by United Nations General Assembly and other specialized agencies have paid attention to issue international agreements, decisions and charters inserted within the course of cancelling death penalty, also regional organizations have paid attention to sign agreements regarding criminal reform as well as cancelling death penalty. Many of these charters and conventions was attributed to obligatory ones for the country which decided to be a part of it, by making some modifications in its legislative texts to cancel death penalty to match international laws. Also, several international charters have assured the human right to life and encouraged cancelling death penalty including Human Rights International Declaration as well as international Covenant for Civil and Political Rights in addition to the Second Optional Protocol for the International Covenant and Protocol No 6 annexed with the European Convention for Protecting Human Rights and political freedoms besides protocol No. 13 annexed with the European Convention.

“SHAMS” center **recommends** the significance to generalize the right of mercy for victim's family in addition to judges' approval on pronouncing execution's sentence , to follow an educational approach which depend on enrooting values which encourage alienating from crimes and raising the value of human self and to pay attention to comparative study between doctrine and law in addition to conduct seminars and conferences that tackle and discuss joint subjects and to look for the social, economic and family circumstances which motivate and cause crimes.

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