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A statement for immediate release

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"

Condemns a death sentence issued by the Permanent Military Court in Gaza Strip against a citizen from Almaghazi

"SHAMS" center **condemns** issuing a death sentence against a citizen from Gaza Strip by the Permanent Military Court on Thursday 20/6/2013. "SHAMS" center also reminds that the reference of the High Military Court rules are the texts of penal revolutionary law issued by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1979 which is an unconstitutional law since it hasn't been yet declared by the Legislative Council either in legislation or declaration, as well many articles of the mentioned law contradicts the International Bill of Human Rights and related international Charters.

"SHAMS" center **emphasizes** the illegality of judging civilians within military courts in contradiction of just trial instead of the judge, while death penalty doesn't represent a restrain against crimes according to the experiences of different countries which apply this penalty.

"SHAMS" center **stresses** the right of the accused people to have legal guarantees and to secure applying the most accurate and certain legal procedures concerning individuals who are accused to crimes with death as its penalty, taking into consideration that accused individuals' use their right to appeal legally or ask a pardon or commutation.

"SHAMS" center **claims** the importance to cancel death penalty from Palestinian legislations and replace it with another penalty like several Arabic or foreign countries since death is considered as one of the most heinous penalties and a form of murder. Death is also a cruel and harsh penalty besides, it doesn't achieve objectives that the country quests and it is impossible to repeal it if the penalty is executed or if the accused individual was innocent.

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"SHAMS" center **calls for** implementing a big lobbying and advocacy campaign to support World Coalition against the Death Penalty, to exert each possible effort in order to end the death penalty all over the world, to unify positions of the Palestinian civil society organizations and creating local initiatives as well as conducting conferences to raise the community's awareness regarding the substance to stop executing death penalty and cancelling it.

" SHAMS" center **addresses** Mr. President Mahmoud Abbas the head of Palestinian National Authority so as not to ratify or confirm death sentences, and to use his constitutional authorities in coordination with legislative power to act what is needed in order to cancel death penalty from Palestinian legislations.

End