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**A statement for immediate release**

**Issued by human rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"**

**SHAMS center condemns storming Alraja'a Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ramallah city**

**"Christians are enrooted in the Palestinian memory"**

" **SHAMS**" center strongly **condemns** this shameful action represented in storming Alraja'a Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ramallah city, writing abusive slogan against Christians, breaking the lock of the Church's down door and a number of the internal offices' doors, stealing some properties and setting fire to facilitate the process of storming. This criminal action reflects the failure of its planners and perpetrators and whoever stands behind them since Palestine is one of the unique countries in which Muslims and Christians coexist peacefully. As well, targeting the church by a group of unknown individuals who are out of the national class will not weaken the church or hinder practicing its religious and national role.

"**SHAMS**" center **emphasizes** that Palestinians whatever they exist pray to God in order to save Palestine from any danger and condemn this action by targeting a place for prayer suddenly. As well, "**SHAMS**" center **perceives** the danger of this unethical irresponsible action which targeted the church although; we believe that Palestine with its powerful people will stand together against any stupid action since such actions express the weakness of its planners and perpetrators.

"**SHAMS**" center **reminds** that our Christian brothers have been originated in Palestine for a long time extended to thousands of years, they are owners of land



and issue, they are partners in blood and destination, and they are the brothers who provided martyrs, injured and detainees for freedom and independence. They also stood on the top of the Palestinian revolution and they sacrificed with their bloods and souls. And for a long time Palestinian Muslims and Christians coexist in an exceptional atmosphere of solidarity and partnership and they both formulated a special story of struggling work since they both are involved in the Palestinian suffering in addition, they shared concerns, worries and pain and they stood together against all projects of elimination for the Palestinian case and they stressed the national rights of the Palestinian people.

“SHAMS” center **emphasizes** that the national willingness as well as glorified positions stood powerfully against the Israeli wretch represented in attempts to discriminate and separate Palestinian Muslims and Christians in addition to spreading rumors to destroy the national social structure. Despite the fact that some strange positions arose within recent years aiming at dividing the national social structure and breaking the peaceful coexistence between individuals of the same people, but these attempts failed because the Palestinian Muslims and Christians represent a role model for the whole world in terms of solidarity, partnership and unity in blood and destiny as well as sharing rights and duties.

“SHAMS” center **invites** civil society organizations to focus on raising individuals’ awareness regarding tolerance, dialogue and accepting the other besides the holy right to belief as well as enrooting values of citizenship among Palestinians and restricting those who call for spreading troubles via peaceful means. “SHAMS” center also **claims** the importance to reveal the perpetrators and judge them.

“End”