

4/5/2017

**A statement for immediate release issued by Human Rights and
Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"**
**About affirming death sentences against three citizens by the Court
of Cassation in Gaza Strip**

"SHAMS" center strongly **condemns** the sentence issued by the Court of Cassation in Gaza Strip on Thursday 4th May of 2017. In which it affirmed previous sentences against three people who were accused of murdering an old woman and a citizen in Gaza Strip. The Court affirmed the sentence issued by the Court of Appeal to execute (M/Kh) accused of intentional killing of the victim Thuraya Albadri, theft and robbery and holding a hurtful tool which break the law. it is worth noting that Albadri (78) years old was murdered on May 11th of 2016 after her house was attacked in the middle of Gaza Strip for the purpose of theft. Moreover, the court inflicted death penalty upon (A/N) and (M/Sh) who are accused of intentional killing of the victim Hussein Abu Mu'mar, theft and abduction which break the law articles.

"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 **puts emphasis** on respecting the efforts and approaches of the Palestinian leaders aiming to accede human rights conventions which guarantee the right to life. The center appeals to the Palestinian National Authority PNA to sign the Second Optional Protocol of 1989, annexed to the International Covenant on political and Civil Rights, on the abolition of death penalty. Moreover, the center appeals to the Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas so as not to ratify death sentences, and to use his constitutional powers to abolish death penalty from the Palestinian legislations.

"END"