

## **An immediate Press Release**

### **Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"**

#### **On the occasion of the International Day against Torture**

**SHAMS** center reminds on the occasion of the international day against torture and other cruel and degrading treatment or punishment, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly of the United Nations resolution 39/46 on 10 December 1984 and entered into force on June 26, 1987, which becomes a global annual anniversary to revive the tragedy of the victims of torture around the world in general and in the occupied Palestinian territories, in particular.

This anniversary urges us all to pay solidarity with all torture victims, and to keep in mind agonies of the tortured and to remind that torture and other kinds of cruel punishments are not acceptable and intolerable under all kinds of circumstances.

**SHAMS** center Emphasizes that this day is an occasion to remind the international community with its obligations towards the Palestinian people who are under yoke of occupation, and in the same time to urge the international community to push the Israeli government to fulfill its obligations to prevent acts of torture, and to punish the perpetrators and to ensure the non- Repetition of such acts based on the article (2) of the convention against torture and Other Cruel and inhuman treatment which states that "each State party must take administrative and legislative actions or effective judicial measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction. Torture shouldn't be practiced under whatever exceptional circumstances the state is experiencing, whether a state of war or threat of war, internal political instability or any of the other public emergency situations, also it is unacceptable under excuses of implementing orders of superior officers or public authority as well.

**SHAMS** center demands to prohibit all forms, kinds, types and titles of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and demand that the treatment of detainees should be in accordance with the provisions and principles of International Humanitarian Law and other international standards and through the explicit prohibition of torture in all circumstances, in times of war and times of peace as well. The Centre calls upon all States, which voluntarily accepted the obligations imposed by the international customary law to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and freely allow access and inspections of the Special Rapporteur on torture, and other human rights mechanisms and instruments, also states should fulfill their obligations, including the punishment of its perpetrators and to reject impunity for them.

Torture and over centuries reminds us of slavery and aggressiveness of its perpetrators who lack moral values and humanity, due to pain and sadness they inflict on victims in addition to other grave psychological impact, such as fear, despair and lack of confidence, which all feed hatred, bigotry and intolerance

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