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### **Statement for Immediate Release**

**Human Rights and Democracy Media center "SHAMS" calls for  
the abolition of the death penalty from the Palestinian  
legislation  
In the International Day against the Death Penalty**

"SHAMS" Emphasizes that the death sentence is contradicting to civil and criminal justice, and that the death penalty is not solution the security and criminal justice, and it represents the run forward in the endeavor of Governments to resolve the problem. Thus, the duty of any government is to protect rights and fundamental freedoms, in the first place, the right to life, and right to have a fair trial by a fair and natural judge.

"SHAMS" center considers that the death penalty is a flagrant violation of human right to life, as it comes at the top of capital penalties which is cruel and inhuman, and the fact that it did not demonstrate that it is more deterrent than other punishments prescribed in the Penal Code, and that the death penalty is the only punishment that can't be repealed or reconsidered in case of execution.

"SHAMS" center highly appreciates the efforts of some States and Governments which abolished the death penalty, as the dominant trend in many democratic societies tend towards the abolition of the death penalty and replace it with imprisonment for life. It also calls upon states that still use capital punishment, the need to repeal it from national legislation and penal code.

"SHAMS" center calls for the broadest campaign to support and advocate for the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, and to make every possible effort to rid the world of the death penalty. In the meantime, "SHAMS" center calls upon all civil society institutions in Palestine to consolidate their positions, and to undertake local initiatives such as the organization of seminars, workshops and various activities to raise awareness of community members regarding need for the abolition of death penalty.

Finally "SHAMS" center appeals **H.E President Mahmoud Abbas**, President of the Palestinian National Authority not to ratify the death sentences and to use his constitutional powers in coordination with the legislative authority to do whatever is necessary to abolish the death penalty from the Palestinian legislation.

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