

Statement for Immediate Release

Issued by Human Rights and Democracy Media Center
"SHAMS": on the occasion of World Day to Combat Poverty
Poverty, "the other side of slavery"

"SHAMS" Center calls upon States and Governments, the United Nations and the civil society institutions to stand with the poor and the deprived segments by advocating against poverty, and by articulating poverty themes within the system of human rights in practice and implementation not only in theory and principle, in order to become a mandatory on all parties to fight poverty as an integrated part of defending human rights, and here reminds the world of the promises and obligations they made in the Millennium Development Goals, which aims to reduce extreme poverty by half by 2015.

The Center reminds all parties of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which calls for respect of human rights through the provision of a decent life for the world's poor peoples and to take measures and necessary actions to ensure the implementation of the international covenants and charters, as poverty is not a violation of one aspect of human rights, but a violation of all rights.

Slavery had been abolished and incriminated, the world is now demanded to abolish poverty as well and incriminate its causes as it is considered a new shape of slavery and causes a lot of social and economic inflictions.

The Center warns of the persistent violations committed against the economies of the poor countries, and the looting of wealth, encroachments, and the increase of monopolies, that destroys the economies of the developing countries, which would increase level of poverty, and the alternative lies in revitalizing the economy and create more economic opportunities and increase development projects and the creation of effective programs aimed to reduce poverty on a sustainable basis, not to provide food, medicine and tents.

The Center calls upon the Palestinian government to take actions for the development of the poor and their families and to place combating poverty at top of priorities, and to shed more lights on the marginalized and poor areas by taking joint initiatives with the

private sector and civil society institutions in developing programs and plans that are conducive to curb the expansion of poverty, and urge the government officials to commemorate this event by visiting the poor areas in order to identify needs and interventions where some tools are suggested such as the establishment of a development bank, Bank of food, and the adoption of corporate social responsibility of the private sector, and to increase budgets of the related ministries.

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