



2019/2/4

**A statement for immediate release****Issued by Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"****Concerning the imposition of death sentence against a citizen by Deir Al Balah  
Court of First Instance****The second death sentence within a week**

**"SHAMS"** Center **condemns** in the strongest terms the imposition of death penalty sentence against the citizen (A'/F) convicted of murder, which was inflicted on Sunday 3/2/2019 by Deir Al Balah Court of First Instance, in Gaza Strip. In a steady series of death sentences handed down by the courts in Gaza Strip, representing insistence upon these irregularities. It is worth noting that this sentence is the second since the beginning of this year 2019.

**"SHAMS"** Center **underlines** its firm and principled positions definitely rejecting the capital punishment being a blatant violation of human rights, represented by the right to life set forth in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As well as the inhuman and degrading treatment of the convict that the convicted person suffer and experience, in the period from the verdict until its execution, which may be even more severe than the sentence itself, which is criminalized as per the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

**"SHAMS"** Center **reminds** that the sanctity of human life represents an untouchable matter for whatever reason. No one can extract it as no one has the authority to grant it from the outset. It is irreversible punishment once executed, so it strikes at the very foundation of guarantees of justice and destruct it. Therefore, **"SHAMS"** Center highlights that death sentences issued in the Palestinian territories are characterized by several errors of law as it does not respect the basic principles of the right of defense and the guarantees of the accused, and it exhausts all means of judicial review and stages of proceedings.



While invoking the deterrent nature of the death penalty, studies repeatedly emphasize that implementing the capital punishment to this day has failed to eliminate crimes. In contrast to the abolitionist countries that chose to respect human life, which have become a developed countries in the elimination of crime, demonstrating another mistake in the justifications for the implementation of the death penalty and rejecting this excuse.

**"SHAMS"** Center **Reaffirms** that the challenge faced by all the Palestinians, citizens & leadership is to achieve justice and equality among all citizens and to find decent ways of living that eliminate crime from its roots and in its early stages. In addition to invest in education and ethics, not to stand on the environment where the crime grows letting the scope of crimes extends, then we get rid of outlaws in this environment by killing them. After everyone has permitted their existence & extension in a collective error that disregards the fact that tribal control is take precedence over deterrence, and prevention has always been better than cure. Wishing Palestine to stay country living life & human dignity and to keep struggling for it.

**"END"**