



2020/11/8

Statement for immediate release

Issued by the Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"

In Submission to the desires of the tribes, there are Two death sentences in Gaza

"SHAMS" Center condemns the issuance of death sentence by hanging by the Court of First Instance against the citizen (A / A) for intentional murder. This ruling would be the second within days after the North Gaza Court of First Instance issued a death sentence by hanging the citizen (S / A) P) who was accused of murder, which raises the number of death sentences issued by the Gaza Strip courts to (13) since the beginning of the year. These rulings reflect the further insistence of the Gaza Strip courts to continue this trend that violates human rights and the international obligations of the State of Palestine under the conventions and charters that it joined, foremost among which is the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol thereto, which aims to abolish the death penalty. In addition to violating formal procedures under Palestinian legislation, specifically Article (109) of the Palestinian Basic Law, and violating the official trend to end the death penalty in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which devote Political and legislative division .

"SHAMS" Center sees in these rulings and the acceleration of their pace as a continuation of the courts of the Gaza Strip in submitting to tribal demands and



vengeful desires and in response to pressures and revenge tendencies instead of rising above them by appealing to the principles of law and human rights standards, and it coincided with the ideological orientations of the de facto government in the Gaza Strip (Hammas) and its attempt to present itself as a deterrent force capable of ruling for political purposes instead of addressing the real causes of crime.

"SHAMS" Center stresses the need to adhere to the guarantees of a fair trial and not to derogate from the litigation rights of the accused after the justice sector in the Gaza Strip adopted a policy of expediting the completion of murder cases "marked with the red tape", which made many death sentences issued only days after the crimes in disregard for the right to life.

Faced with this dangerous trend and insistence on resorting to the death penalty, **"SHAMS"** Center demands the necessity to complete the positive step by joining the Optional Protocol aimed at abolishing the death penalty by harmonizing national laws with it and with the rest of the international treaties and conventions that the State of Palestine has joined, and stresses the need to work on reform The judiciary and justice institutions and their unification, in pursuit of more guarantees of justice and a fair trial.

"SHAMS" Center calls on the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, brief or arbitrary executions, the International Coalition Against the Death Penalty, and the civil and international institutions working in this field, for more pressure and advocacy towards stopping this punishment and opposing it in the Gaza Strip and standing next to **"SHAMS"** Center in his continuous struggle to abolish the punishment from Palestinian legislation and bring about a process of societal change on this level.