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**Immediate release statement
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**On international Human Rights Day:
calls to empower the Palestinian people towards deciding their destiny**

On International Human Rights Day, in which the world celebrates the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the lofty and founding document relating to the right and responsibility of individuals, groups, and bodies of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, **"SHAMS" Center** stresses that the political rights of the Palestinian people are An essential and original part of his human rights and an introduction to respecting them. For decades, the Palestinian people have been subjected to various violations that prevent them from obtaining their inalienable and inherent right to freedom, independence, and self-determination.

The Israeli occupation forces continue to target and kill Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, and execute them extrajudicially, and target peaceful demonstrations with excessive force. The settlers also continue their nightly attacks on homes and properties and Palestinian civilians and their facilities, while the Israeli colonial institutions continue to provide security, infrastructure, and services for about (700,000) settlers illegally residing in occupied Palestinian land in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. "Israeli occupation forces maintain severe restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians. It has also increased the number of demolitions, evictions, and confiscations of Palestinian homes and facilities, which are rising to unprecedented levels. and the Israeli violations against journalists during their work in covering the events include physical assault, arrest, coalition equipment, and denial of coverage

"SHAMS" Center reminds the international community that the Israeli occupation continues to detain thousands of Palestinian prisoners, including children and women as the total number of prisoners until the date of November 7, 2021, reached a total of (4650), including (540) administrative detainees, (225) child prisoners, (43) female prisoners and (9) members of the Palestinian parliament, (25) former prisoners who were arrested before the "Oslo" agreement, (100) prisoners who spent more than (20) years, and (34) spent more than (25) years in prisons. Also, the prisoner Karim Younes (62) has been in prison for 38 years, while the prisoner Nael Al-Barghouti (63) has been in prison for 35 years. While the number of sick prisoners and detainees has reached about (700) prisoners all of them are subject to the policy of deliberate medical neglect, including (170) severe and serious illness cases, (24) cancer patients, and (17) prisoners who reside permanently in the so-called The notorious "Ramle



Prison Hospital", which caused the death of many of them, the last of whom was the prisoner "Sami al-Amour" who has been detained since 2008 and whose death was announced on 11/18/2021 in the Israeli "Soroka" Hospital in Beersheba due to a heart problem. It was exacerbated by the deliberate medical negligence policy, which raised the number of Palestinians who were martyred in Israeli detention to (227) since 1967, 72 of them as a result of deliberate medical negligence. Israel holds the bodies of (8) prisoners who died while being deprived of their liberty and continues its policy of administrative detention, which reached, last October, the issuance of (106) administrative detention orders, including (49) new orders and (57) renewals of previous orders.

As for Gaza Strip, strict discriminatory restrictions continue to restrict the movement of people and goods to and from the Strip, while a large part of the occupied Palestinian land is being cut off to open roads that facilitate the movement of Israeli settlers there. The closure of the Gaza Strip continues for the 15th year in a row, creating extremely difficult complex conditions for more than (2) million Palestinians living in the besieged strip. The Israeli blockade, which represents a collective punishment in violation of international law, causes economic collapse and living crises that hit all Walks of life in the besieged sector.

"SHAMS" Center stresses that these Israeli violations, which rise to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity, require the international community to take practical and radical steps to end the suffering of the Palestinian people and enable them to exercise their political rights, through self-determination, independence and the establishment of a free, sovereign state, like the rest peoples of the world.

"SHAMS" Center demands the holding of legislative and presidential elections, which have been disrupted by the governing bodies, which are a human right and a periodic constitutional entitlement and culture. It also violates the principle that "the people are the source of authority" and the logic of democracy and entrenches dictatorial practices, and constitutes an explicit violation of the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 21 Clause 3, which stipulates that the will of the people, which is manifested through fair elections held periodically by universal suffrage on an equal footing, is the basis of the authority of government. This was confirmed by the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights and Articles (2,5,34,47) of the amended Palestinian Basic Law (as the temporary constitution).

Accordingly, the **"SHAMS" Center** calls on the parties to the government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, political parties, national forces, civil society organizations, political actors, academics, jurists, and human rights defenders to push for holding general elections at the level of the presidency and parliament, in a way that enables the Palestinians to exercise their



political rights, elect their leaders, and renew their political system, which will have a positive impact on the rest of the rights.

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