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Statement for immediate release

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

"SHAMS" Center: The Kufr Aqab massacre calls for the political system to be recovered from its slumber, and urgent measures to be taken at the highest levels

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS", received with severe shock the news of the killing of three citizens of Al-Rajabi family, namely Adnan Walid Al-Rajabi, and the two brothers Haitham and Issam Musa Al-Rajabi, with firearms in a family quarrel that took place in the town of Kufr Aqab, north of the occupied city of Jerusalem. In addition to the aforementioned, it resulted in the injury of at least five others, some of these injuries were reported to be serious injuries.

"SHAMS" Center stresses that the increase in the number of murders and violence, the increase in their ugliness in quantity and quality, and the tremendous deterioration in the level of civil peace, is an expected result of the phenomenon of proliferation of weapons and the rise of tribalism that nourishes the culture of violence and entrenches it in the collective consciousness by imposing easy solutions to crimes that affect the public right, weakness of the deterrent legislative frameworks, the retreat of the principle of the rule of law and the prestige of the



regular judiciary, the political divisions that allowed the growth of pockets of crime in separate places, the absence of an integrated national strategy, and being limited to post-security solutions and interventions without working at the level of social, economic and cultural solutions, what is happening, in part, is the harvest of the official policy in ignoring repeated civilian recommendations by launching a comprehensive national plan to deal with the collapse of civil peace and its shaky foundations.

Accordingly, the following should be quickly recommended:

1. Reconsidering the political divisions that prevent the Palestinian security establishment from effectively and responsibly accessing all areas of the West Bank.
2. Reforming the legislative system by developing and completing it by issuing a modern Palestinian penal code to achieve both private and public deterrence and the concept of criminal justice.
3. Law enforcement agencies from the security agencies and the justice sector, especially the judiciary, play a decisive role in the pursuit of crime and weapons, and not be complacent by taking advantage of the harsher penalties for crimes related to the possession, use, trafficking, manufacture and smuggling of firearms contained in the Amendment of Firearms and Ammunition Law 2/1998.
4. Development of an integrated security policy based on the role of the security institution: protecting citizens from any external aggression, protecting human rights, respecting freedoms, preserving democratic practices, standing above political disputes, enforcing the law in accordance with best



international agreements and standards, and protecting the basic law and constitutional institutions, Preserving civil peace, observing transparency, integrity requirements, governance and accountability in the work of the security components.

5. Stopping tribal solutions that are complacent about crime and that reinforce a culture of impunity, and limit the jurisdiction of looking into crime to the regular judiciary, which must be reformed in a way that makes it transparent, fair, efficient and efficient.
6. Enhancing the effectiveness of social education institutions, especially universities, colleges and institutes, in spreading and promoting the values of civil peace, community cohesion, citizenship, dialogue, tolerance and the rejection of violence.
7. Building the Palestinian media discourse so that it is responsive to fighting hatred and countering incitement to and promoting violence, setting up mechanisms for training media professionals on civil peace, and approving a media code of honor on civil peace.
8. Activating the role of civil peace coalitions in all regions and governorates, strengthening security partnership with them, and promoting resort to alternative means of resolving disputes such as mediation, arbitration, negotiation and dialogue.
9. Involving the private sector in preserving civil peace within its societal responsibility, by playing a greater role in addressing economic decline and



unemployment, with an understanding of their direct relationship to the level of crime.

10. Focusing on intensifying civil interventions in terms of preserving and maintaining civil peace, through education and awareness raising, lobbying and advocacy, reaching hot spots, enhancing citizens' resort to alternative means of resolving disputes, providing psychological and legal counseling, and forming a civilian observatory of crime and hate.