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The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn four death sentences issued in Gaza

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the four death sentences (including three in absentia) issued by a Military Court in Gaza on 13 January. These are the first death sentences to be issued this year. Last year, Palestinian courts issued 12 death sentences, including three in the West Bank where a moratorium on executions is respected since 2005.

As in their most recent statement on 19 October, the EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall the EU's firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment. The EU considers that abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights. It considers capital punishment to be cruel and inhuman, that it fails to provide deterrence to criminal behaviour, and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity.

The authorities in Gaza must refrain from carrying out any executions of prisoners and comply with the moratorium on executions put in place by the Palestinian Authority, pending abolition of the death penalty in line with the global trend.

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