

Jerusalem, 26 May 2016

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah urge authorities in Gaza not to carry out execution of prisoners

Following the announcements made by the authorities in Gaza of their intention to implement several death sentences in the coming days, the EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah call for a reversal of the decision to carry out the execution of a number of prisoners. The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall the EU's firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment.

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah urge the authorities in Gaza to uphold the obligations to respect the rights to life and to a fair trial - which are guaranteed by international human rights law under the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - and not carry out these executions, and join the appeal made by the UN Commissioner for Human Rights in this regard.

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 these and any other 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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