Jerusalem, 26 January 2017

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

The European Union Representative, the EU Heads of Mission and the Head of Mission of Switzerland in Jerusalem and Ramallah issue the following statement.

The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the two death sentences issued in the Gaza Strip on 24th January.

The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall their firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment. The EU and Switzerland consider that abolition of the death penalty contributes to the protection 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 de facto 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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