Jerusalem, 03 July 2018

Local statement on the abolition of the death penalty

The European Union Representative and the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah issue the following statement:

"The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah welcome the Palestinian signature of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. This is an important step towards the definite abolition of the death penalty.

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall the EU's opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment. The EU considers 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.

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