A sit in organized in Ramallah governorate on the occasion of World Day against Death Penalty

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "**SHAMS**" organized sit/in on Alsaa' Square in the heart of Ramallah city, to celebrate the annual anniversary of World Day against Death Penalty on October 10th.
Tens of representatives from official institutions, civil society and human rights organizations, youth and women associations, academics and students from the faculties of Journalism, Law and political sciences. In addition to citizens, social activists, assembled to express their solidarity on the occasion of World Day against Death Penalty.

"**SHAMS**" Center distributed a statement issued in both Arabic and English among participants for the same occasion. Furthermore, a large number of posters were hanged in the place, the center's staff and participants raised slogans in Arabic and English calling for the abolition of the capital punishment from Palestinian legislations. Participants also acclaimed against the death penalty, while some activists made speeches requesting to cancel the capital punishment. It is worth noting that a considerable media outlets joined and covered the event in terms of audible, visual and written media, as well as the internet pages and websites. At the same day and the following day, mass media broadcasted the reports and photos to a large extent . Mass media included Wattan TV, Al-Quds newspaper TV, Raya FM, Alam radio, Sawa radio, Al-Quds newspaper, Radio Ajial and Radio Nagham .

During the sit/in "SHAMS" recommended the following recommendations:

1. To call upon Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to significantly harmonize Palestinian legislations, following Palestine's instrument of accession to the second Protocol Annexed to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the abolition of death penalty of 1989 was deposited.
2. To significantly establish a strong and active movement, supportive to the human rights and combating death penalty, comprising human rights activists, writers, religious leaders, politicians, artists, Jurists, judges, lawyers & Bar Association, media figures, human rights organizations, PLC members, political parties, and government people. It is necessary to combine politicians and parliamentarians.
3. To prepare the public opinion in order to move forward in the efforts directed at the abolition of death penalty, a public opinion to put pressure against death penalty.

4. To develop a national strategy against the capital punishment, to abolish it in Palestinian legislations.
5. To call upon the president Mahmoud Abbas “Abu Mazen” in order not to ratify death sentences.
6. To enhance collaboration and coordination between the Palestinian Coalition against Death Penalty, Arab Coalition against Death Penalty and World Coalition against Death Penalty.
7. Media has to assume an efficient role in raising awareness of citizens to combat death penalty and to form a public opinion which puts pressure against the death penalty.
8. To share experiences at regional & international levels regarding the abolition of the capital punishment in their states.
9. To foster the role of Palestinian Coalition against Death Penalty.