



DEATH PENALTY IN PALESTINE

49TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON PALESTINE - ITEM 7 – Geneva – 24 March 2022

Thank you Madam the President,

Together against the death penalty (ECPM), Human Rights and Democracy participation Center (SHAMS) and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty welcome the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and would like to express their concern relating to the use of the death penalty.

On 18 March 2019, The State of Palestine acceded to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. The Protocol entered into force on 18 June 2019.

However, 77 crimes are still punishable by death including in application of the Revolutionary Penal Code.

In 2021, at least 19 people have been sentenced to death especially in the Gaza Strip.

The lack of fair-trial guarantees and use of torture are of particular concern as well as the issuance of death sentences by the Permanent Military Court against civilians.

In this context ECPM, SHAMS and the World Coalition call on the State of Palestine to:

- Abolish the death penalty in accordance with its international obligation under the Second Optional protocol to the ICCPR
- Reform the Judicial system and the penal code with a view to abolishing the death penalty
- Support the next Resolution of the General Assembly calling for a universal moratorium on the application of the death penalty

We thank you for your attention.