

October 2014

ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY!

Your Excellency,

according to information by Amnesty International, during the most recent Gaza-Israel war, the **implementation of death penalty in Gaza has significantly increased**. In most cases the death sentences were imposed on individuals who had been **suspected of providing information to the Israeli government**. The victims were sentenced to death after having **undergone unusual fast trial proceedings that did not meet international standards for fair trials**.

Also in previous years, death sentences due to "collaboration with the enemy" were imposed and executed under the Hamas administration, in some cases also against minors. **Many of the defendants were forced to confess under torture**. According to the UN convention against torture, **any statement that has been made as a result of torture must not be invoked as evidence in any proceedings**.

Amnesty International acknowledges that it is the right and responsibility of the Hamas administration to bring to justice those suspected of criminal offences. However, **Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception regardless of the nature of the crime**, as it violates two fundamental rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: the right to life and the right of not being subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. Amnesty International considers the death penalty as the most cruel, inhuman and degrading of all punishments.

Thus, I urge you:

- **to ensure that all imposed death sentences in Gaza, are not carried out**, and that all death sentences are overturned or commuted.
- **to ensure that all proceedings meet international standards for fair trials**.
- to carry out prompt, independent and impartial **investigations of the allegations** according to which many alleged collaborators with Israel **were forced to confess under torture**. Ensure to bring anyone found to be responsible for applying torture to justice in proceedings which meet international standards for a fair trial.

Sincerely yours,

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