A statement for immediate release
Issued by the Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS”
Dark and reactionary forces that incite to murder the director of “SHAMS” Center Dr. Omar Rahal, bears full responsibility for his safety

“SHAMS” Center followed with serious concern the organized and continued attack and hate speeches that incite to kill the colleague Dr. Omar Rahal, the national uncompromising human rights defender of whom we are proud, over the past few days. Through suspicious pages linked to Hizb ut-Tahrir and some obscurantist parties, against the background of our colleague’s participation in one of the TV Shows on (Ma’an) space channel, and the expression of his opinion regarding the patriarchal culture, the distorted use of religion, the tribal privileges, and populist discourses by these parties to justify the oppression of women and the justification of Paedophilia against minors, and incitement to attack official institutions & civil society organizations and their staffs, and international conventions, primarily the CEDAW Convention.

“SHAMS” Center expresses its full solidarity with the colleague Rahal and its support to the civil and official efforts exerted for the protection of family from violence at all levels. The center strongly condemns these extremely serious threats to the life of colleague Rahal and his physical and bodily integrity and his safeguarded right to freedom of expression, and opinion, and belief, which comes as part of systematic and organized terrorist campaigns through which the reactionary forces seek to transfer their backwardness to the public sphere and intimidate human rights defenders.

These are dark forces whose history is marked by black criminality, with a loud, empty-minded voice that does not respect the inalienable human right to life that God granted to human beings before the legal laws. Such forces used to face thought and free expression with violence, bullets, and bloodshed. In this regard, we recall
the Arab martyrs: the Egyptian Faraj Foudah, the Tunisian Shukri Belaid, the Jordanian Nahid Hattar and other humanitarian heroes who have been the torches of the path to enlightenment and liberation, and pioneers of the Arab civil and human rights movement.

Accordingly, “SHAMS” Center suggest that these cowards are short-minded and imprudent, who have taken our colleague’s words out of its context, referring to their insufficient understanding, which they use to justify their crimes against women and others, and this organized campaign represents a realistic and practical example of their limited understanding. They turned Dr. Rahal's words to an infringement on the divine and the sanctities, charged him of disbelief, accused him of apostasy, and demanded to kill him. Our colleague Dr. Rahal assures to the dark forces and holders of suspicious agendas who used to betray, that he is able to defend and protect his staff using all tools & mechanisms and to resolutely address the reactionary forces and their criminal threats, including death threats and call for silencing colleague Rahal by force, and that he will take necessary measures in this regard.

Although “SHAMS” Center views that these incidents and developments as a further expression of the fragility, weakness, and suspicious silence of the Palestinian political system in front of the backward forces and their successive threats to commit the described crimes without taking any serious steps mentioned; However, “SHAMS” Center considers this statement, as a public communiqué submitted to the Attorney General, and calls on the official and security authorities to move urgently and without delay to provide the necessary protection to our colleague Rahal against this serious incitement that poses a threat to his life, safety, and family.

“SHAMS” Center also calls upon the cybercrime unit and prosecution, which usually hasten to take urgent steps when there is a political dimension to the matter that is not in line with the official vision, to move immediately and with utmost effectiveness, without double standards, against these suspicious pages and those behind them, and follow-up on all those who practice hate speech, the accusation of disbelief, incitement, and threat via digital platforms that are convertible into violent behavior in reality and with high possibility. And to take the legal
requirement against them, thus protecting the society and its civil icons and intellectuals. These dark forces not only threatened our colleague Rahal but also harassed his respected family and insulted their dignity and honor with dirty and inferior words that reflect the lack of education, culture, and the backwardness of these individuals who still live in the era of obscurantism and decline. The center also urges civil society organizations to put aside differences and ensure unification in combating these reactionary forces.

Backward, dark and reactionary forces shall realize that we in “SHAMS” Center will not give in to their intimidating attempts and their blind and malicious threats, and we will continue the work and struggle that we have started for (17) years in defending human rights, freedoms, and dignity, without allowing others to impede us from the fulfillment of our goals. The vision of "SHAMS" Center is represented in the achievement of a democratic, pluralistic, Palestinian state for all its citizens, regardless of their cultural, intellectual, and religious identities. A state of law that safeguards human rights, exalts the values of citizenship, and whose members live in an atmosphere of freedoms. This is our dream, our vision, our battle, and this is our path that we have chosen and in which we move on.

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