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ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

A STATEMENT FROM THE AMMAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

By ACHRS

On the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of the World Day against the Death Penalty, the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies renews its firm commitment to human rights principles and emphasizes the urgent need to move towards a world free of the death penalty. In this direction, encouraging international steps were recorded, when over the past years many countries and international bodies joined the call to stop implementing the death penalty and replace it with punishments that protect the right to life, such as life imprisonment and other appropriate alternatives. The international response to this call was represented by successive resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the last of which was issued Resolution No. 463 of 2022, receiving the approval of 125 countries, which indicates that the time has come for the gradual abolition of the death penalty in the world. In this context, the Center appreciates the position of the Arab governments that supported the resolution and hopes that they will vote again in favor of it next December. It also calls on the Arab countries that abstained from voting in favor of the resolution to develop their position to vote positively this year.

To confirm the validity of this demand, many studies have indicated that the death penalty does not achieve the required deterrence at the public and private levels, and that it does not reduce the commission of crimes, but rather increases the rate of human rights

violations, especially since the right to life is a fundamental and sacred right, which must be preserved by all possible means.

To achieve this humanitarian goal, the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies strives to achieve a positive change in the awareness of the local and Arab community about the dangers of the death penalty. Understanding the social concerns and division in public opinion on this issue, it calls for restricting the death penalty to the most serious crimes, focusing on the need to review national legislation and make it consistent with international human rights standards. The Amman Center emphasizes that the process of abolishing the death penalty must be gradual in application, and must be based on realistic legal studies that take into account the development of public opinion's position and achieve justice and protection of human rights in order to achieve the desired abolition.

In this direction, the Center encourages holding awareness-raising seminars, training, and workshops, and actively participating in the twenty-first anniversary of the World Day against the Death Penalty, which is on October 10th. It calls for focusing on the importance of targeting youth groups through social media, where the reasons behind the call against the death penalty can be explained and alternative punishments that deter crime can be presented, preserve justice and contribute to building a society based on the principles of human rights and justice.

It also urges the international community to support ongoing efforts to combat the death penalty and work towards a world that respects human rights, especially the right to life, and work to achieve justice for all. The Center affirms its strong commitment to coordinating and uniting local and international efforts in this regard. Additionally it calls on all activists in the world to unite their efforts in this ongoing process to abolish the death penalty and build a world based on justice and human rights, foremost among which is the right to life.

The Center warns of the danger of the existence of dozens of legal articles that impose the death penalty in Arab countries in light of the absence of social justice and further restrictions on public freedoms. It also draws attention to the seriousness of the phenomenon

of using the death penalty in Arab countries to attack political opponents, instead of searching for ways to defuse conflicts, crises, and multiple problems.

The Center also calls on all partners concerned with this issue to coordinate efforts in raising awareness, advocacy, and gaining support for abolishing the penalty and submitting proposals for deterrent alternative punishments to replace the death penalty, the basis of which is not the loss of life, but rather preserves justice and the establishment of a safe society.

It is worth noting that the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, as an independent center for thinking about issues of human rights and democracy, has been working for years to spread and enhance the culture of human rights in society, and adopts a fixed priority in its work, which is to spread the culture of protecting the right to life. In order to institutionalize community work to amend the legal legislation governing the death penalty in Jordan, which conflicts with the principle of the right to life and hinders Jordan's commitment to international conventions, the Jordanian Coalition against the Death Penalty was launched in 2007 on its initiative, and the Amman Center also initiated the establishment of the Arab Coalition against the Death Penalty In 2008.

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