



**Jerusalem, 19 January 2012**

### **Local EU statement on death sentence in Gaza**

“The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the death sentence issued by the Gaza Military Court on Wednesday 11 January.”

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall the EU's firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment. The EU considers that abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights. It considers capital punishment to be cruel and inhuman, failing to provide deterrence to criminal behaviour, and representing an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity.

The de facto authorities in Gaza should refrain from carrying out any executions of prisoners and comply with the de facto moratorium on executions put in place by the Palestinian Authority, pending abolition of the death penalty in line with the global trend”.

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