



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN



## **Local EU-UNICEF statement in Yemen on the occasion of the World and European Day against the Death Penalty, 10 October 2013**

*The European Union Delegation issues the following joint statement  
with UNICEF in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Yemen*

Sana'a on 10 October

The European Union Delegation in Yemen and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Country Office would like to seize the opportunity of the World and European Day against the Death Penalty to mark their appreciation at the recent efforts led by the Yemeni authorities to put an end to Juvenile Death Penalty in Yemen.

We welcome in particular the establishment by the Ministry of Justice of a Specialised Forensic Committee aimed at reviewing all cases where there is a doubt on the age of the alleged offender. We are also encouraged by the recent decision by President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi to request the Supreme Judicial Council to re-open three death penalty cases for alleged juvenile offenders.

Despite this progress, we remain concerned that two executions against alleged juvenile offenders took place in the past year; and that a high number of new cases or new death sentences keep being issued for reported juveniles.

We recall that International treaties to which Yemen is a party, as well as Yemen's penal law, specifically prohibit the execution of juvenile offenders. Capital punishment represents an irreversible loss of human life and should never be carried out if there remains any credible doubt about the age of the accused.

We therefore call upon the Yemeni authorities to put an unequivocal end to the execution of anyone convicted of committing a crime when under the age of 18,

notably by providing the Specialised Forensic Committee with the adequate jurisdictional and legal mandate to carry its work.

We remain committed to continue a constructive dialogue with the Government and all interested parties to stop Juvenile Death Penalty in Yemen.

On this day, we also call the Yemeni authorities to seriously consider imposing a moratorium on all executions as a first step toward abolition of the death penalty in line with the worldwide tendency.