



**Jerusalem, 13 August 2013**

**Local EU statement on impending executions in Gaza**

"The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah are deeply concerned at the announcements by the *de facto* authorities of their intention once more to carry out a number of executions and to do so publicly.

"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.

"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 human dignity and the progressive development of human rights. It considers that capital punishment is cruel and inhuman, that it fails to provide deterrence to criminal behaviour, and that it represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity."

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