

Tuesday, 23 January 2018

OHCHR condemns latest killing in Gaza, urges swift investigation to end impunity

RAMALLAH – OHCHR today expressed deep concern over the killing of a 38 year old man in the Gaza city of Rafah on 19 January 2018. The body of the victim was brought to the Abu Youssef Al Najjar Hospital in Rafah City on 19 January, with a fatal bullet wound to the chest. The victim's family subsequently publicly claimed responsibility for the killing, and indicated that an armed group affiliated with the *de facto* authorities had detained the man and handed him over to the family before he was killed. According to information received by OHCHR, masked men abducted the victim some two months ago and family members later visited him at a military site belonging to the armed group.

OHCHR condemns this killing in the strongest terms and reminds the *de facto* authorities in Gaza of their legally binding obligation to respect and protect the right to life and security of every person in Gaza. As articulated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the right to life is an inherent right to every human being and "no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life". OHCHR calls on the concerned authorities to undertake immediate, full, independent and impartial investigation into this killing in order to bring the perpetrators to justice and to deter further violations of the right to life.

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The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has been present in the occupied Palestinian territory since 1996 and has a mandate, among other things, to monitor and publicly report the human rights situation in the territory by all human rights duty bearers.

Media contact (Ramallah): Marina Mattiolo Tel: +972 547416430, email: mmattiolo@ohchr.org