

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the death sentences and executions carried out by the Palestinian Authority**

The European Union expresses its deep regret at the executions in Gaza and Nablus on Saturday, following the death sentences against Majdi Mahawi and Allan Bani Odeh.

The European Union also appeals to President Arafat to commute the death sentences passed Saturday against Ali al-Hatib and Husa al-Din Musa in Bethlehem. The European Union encourages President Arafat to consider as a first step the introduction of a moratorium on the death penalty and reiterates its view that the abolition of the death penalty worldwide would contribute to the enhancement of human dignity.

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**Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>  
E-mail: [press.office@consilium.eu.int](mailto:press.office@consilium.eu.int)**

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