

**State of Palestine  
Palestine Liberation Organization  
Negotiations Affairs Department**

**April 4, 2015**

**Statement by PLO Executive Committee Member Dr. Saeb Erekat on  
the situation at Al Yarmouk Camp**

The persecution and slaughtering of Palestinian refugees continues in a conflict that isn't theirs.

For four years now, Al- Yarmouk refugee camp continues to be the victim of the internal Syrian conflict despite the repeated reiteration by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the vast majority of the Palestinian groups of our longstanding position of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

Reports of kidnappings, beheadings and mass killings are coming out from Al-Yarmouk, which is under a brutal campaign of murder and occupation at the hands of the terrorist group of *Daesh* and its allies.

The priority must be to save the Palestinian refugees in the camp by creating a safe passage for them out of the death trap that Al- Yarmouk has become. We call upon the United Nations and other involved organizations, including the ICRC, as well as the Syrian government to take all necessary measures to immediately evacuate civilians. Time is quickly running out.

For over 700 days, the camp has been the victim of a draconian siege, which has resulted in the death by starvation of at least 200 Palestinians. The PLO, through its envoys, has been trying for years to lift the siege. Today, the camp's population is less than 18,000 compared to over 160,000 before the siege began.

This humanitarian disaster is a further reminder of the need to realize the inalienable right of return for all Palestine refugees, in line with international law and relevant UN resolutions. In the meantime, the tragedy unfolding

in Al-Yarmouk shall remain a testament to the collective human failure of protecting civilians in times of war.

**End of the Statement.**

Xavier Abu Eid  
Communications Adviser  
State of Palestine  
Palestine Liberation Organization  
Negotiations Affairs Department  
Office Number: + 970 (0) 2 296 3745  
Mobile Number: + 970 (0) 598 950 300  
Fax Number: +970 2 296 37 40  
Email: [xabueid@nad-nsu.ps](mailto:xabueid@nad-nsu.ps)  
Website: [www.nad-plo.org](http://www.nad-plo.org)  
@nadplo