

General Release Item 17. 4

**The Palestinian Return Centre**

**Delivered by:**

**Mr. Majed Al-Zeer- Chairman**

**Mr. President**

**In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), article 13 (b) which states that 'Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.' This indicates the clear position of international law regarding the right of return, rendering the principle unquestionable and therefore it must be enacted for Palestinian refugees.**

**More than half a million Palestinian refugees have been directly affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria. The already dire situation concerning Palestinian refugees was further compounded by the bombardment of Gaza last summer which internally displaced 300,000 people.**

**The current financial challenges facing UNRWA is because of the lack of a diplomatic solution, not funding, that leaves Palestinian refugees in poor living conditions. This is why that the debate on the right of return is crucial.**

**In order for the suffering of Palestinian refugees to be alleviated its root cause must be addressed. The most appropriate remedy to the Palestinian refugee problem is the implementation of the right of return which should be honoured particularly in light of the current suffering of Palestinian refugees, therefore we urge the Council to take immediate action to protect and assist Palestinian refugees who are suffering as a result of the current refugee crisis.**

**We also urge the Council to ensure that Israel complies with international law and implements UNGA Resolution 194. Israel must be made to uphold its legal, moral and political obligations towards the Palestinian people.**

**The resolution of the Palestinian refugee issue is essential to restoring justice to Palestinian refugees and therefore integral to a successful negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.**