



Right Hon Philip Hammond MP  
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For the attention of: Right Hon Philip Hammond MP

07 April 2015

Dear Mr. Hammond,

**Re: Concerted intervention urgently required to save the civilian population of Yarmouk refugee camp**

We write to express our profound concern that the unbearably desperate situation of the besieged civilian population in the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk has further critically deteriorated since the commencement of intensive hostilities within the camp on 1 April 2015. It is estimated that 18,000 civilians, including some 3,500 children, are at immediate and extreme risk of death, serious injury, trauma and displacement.

LPHR respectfully urges the UK government to take a lead role in the UN Security Council to ensure concerted action is urgently undertaken to protect civilians in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. We believe this should include the following vital measures:

- pursuant to the UN Security Council statement of 6 April 2015, ensure secure humanitarian access to the area for the purpose of facilitating life-saving assistance and an orderly and safe evacuation of civilians who wish to leave Yarmouk;
- clearly demand that all parties respect and comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law to ensure the protection of civilians in Yarmouk, including respect for the right to life; and
- stress the critical need to secure legal accountability for any individual who commits war crimes.

The humanitarian disaster that has unfolded upon the population of the Yarmouk refugee camp must no longer continue. We reiterate the call by UNRWA that concerned states,



including the UK, urgently exercise their authority and influence in order to end the fighting in Yarmouk for the sake of saving civilian lives and alleviating human suffering.

We shall be grateful for your intervention on this urgent matter and look forward to receiving your written response.

Yours sincerely,

Tareq Shrourou  
**Director, Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights**