

**Statement Issued by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and
Addressed to the Palestinian People.¹**

Cairo, December 25, 1967

Among the results of the defeat of last June was the occupation of the whole of Palestine, Sinai and the Golan Heights by the forces of racist Zionism, which are the spearhead of the forces of colonialism and imperialism in the Arab homeland. The Arab people, and especially the Palestinian people, have faced this cruel and bewildering defeat with a resolution and unswerving courage never expected by the enemy. An illustration of this is the fact that the people have not surrendered to the will of imperialism and Zionism, but have resolved to stand firm before the tempest, and to search for their own weak points and the reasons for their defeat, so as to eliminate them and mobilise all resources that will enable them to turn this defeat into victory and to liberate Arab territories.

The immediate reaction of the Palestinian Arab people was to resist the Zionist-imperialist occupation. This resistance has taken place in two main fields in occupied Palestine. The first is non-violent resistance: popular leaderships were openly established which immediately reacted, with the greatest courage, addressing the enemy in the name of the people, and declaring their rejection of and resistance to the Zionist-imperialist occupation and all the arbitrary measures taken by it. This has been accompanied by a popular movement working on a basis of non-cooperation with the Zionist-imperialist authorities in all possible fields and employing all possible methods.

The second field of resistance to the occupation has been that of armed resistance which has been the forceful and courageous expression of our refusal to accept the consequences of the defeat, and of our determination to eliminate these consequences and to liberate Palestine.

It was both logical and essential that these immediate reactions should be accompanied by the drafting of a plan of action based on an analysis of the reasons for the defeat and comprising a scientific scheme for the

¹ Originally published in *Al-Ahram* (Cairo), December 12, 1967. Ahmad Al-Shuqairi resigned from the chairmanship of the Palestine Liberation Organisation on December 24, 1967.

liberation of the homeland and for the mobilisation and unification of all available forces and resources.

It is to the Palestine Liberation Organisation that the Palestinian people look to take the initiative in realising this ambition of theirs. And it is to realise this aim that the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation will work at the present stage, with all the forces and resources available to it. It will call on all effective forces for the achievement of the following aims:

1. The establishment of an Assembly representing the will of the people, which will be the source of responsible collective leadership.
2. The unification and escalation of armed struggle.
3. The achievement of national unity.
4. The mobilisation of national efforts.
5. The development of the Organisation's subsidiary organs.

In this connection the Executive Committee addresses itself to all the effective elements and organised forces of the Palestinian people, calling on them to help and support it in the achievement of the above objectives, so that we may perfect all the elements of power necessary to resist all Zionist-imperialist schemes aimed at liquidating the Palestine problem, and advance with all our strength along the course that leads to the liberation of Palestine, depending on the unity of the Arab struggle in all fields.