

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2014

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LEADING PALESTINIAN LIBERATION THEOLOGIAN NAIM ATEEK TO SPEAK AT
UPCOMING CONFERENCE ON JUSTICE AND HOPE FOR PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS

PORTLAND, OR . . . Noted Palestinian Christian theologian The Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek will speak on "*Biblical Sources of Justice and Hope for Peace*" on Friday, April 4 at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St.

The lecture opens a two-day conference and call to action, SEEDS OF JUSTICE AND HOPE FOR PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS: WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US, hosted by the Portland action group of Friends of Sabeel – North America.

Ateek is the founder of Sabeel, an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement among Palestinian Christians based in Jerusalem. His groundbreaking book *Justice and Only Justice* created a new understanding of the Gospel message of liberation within the context of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Ateek's prophetic call for a just peace and reconciliation among Israelis and Palestinians has raised international awareness of the current political situation and has encouraged people from around the world to advocate for human rights for all in the region.

Also on Friday the 4th, Mark Braverman and Rev. Dick Toll will join Ateek in a workshop panel "*Will Christians survive in the Holy Land?*". Noted author and activist Rev. Brian McLaren along with Rev. Don Wagner will join Ateek in a workshop seminar "*The question of Christian Zionism*" on Saturday April 5th.

Ateek also calls for solidarity among members of all religious faiths. Recently, he spoke out against a controversial new Israeli law that distinguishes between Muslim and Christian Arab citizens. Ateek condemned the law, enacted February 23 of this year, as "a deceitful political stunt by Likud-Beiteinu members aimed at sowing seeds of division among Christians and between Christians and Muslims."

Information about speakers and tickets to the conference to be held April 4 and 5 may be purchased at <http://sabeel-pdx.brownpapertickets.com/>

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Advance interviews with Naim Ateek and other speakers on Israel-Palestine issues may be arranged by contacting:

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