

# The Human behind **Sabri Saidam** Spreading Hope for a Brighter Educational Era



By Khulud Darras

about three years ago I had the chance to meet Dr. Sabri Saidam. Although I have never been a big fan of politicians, I was touched by his dedication to making significant contributions to our society. At the time, Dr. Saidam was the presidential adviser for telecom, IT, and technical education, and as an act of social responsibility he visited some of the villages near Bethlehem that are surrounded by illegal Israeli settlements and the apartheid Wall in order to donate computers and laptops for the benefit of the youth. I will never forget the vibrant and positive energy he radiated. He shook everyone's hand and spread optimism and the love of knowledge wherever he went. His commitment to the pursuit of excellence in the teaching-learning process has furthermore been obvious and fruitful since he has become the minister of education and higher education. He has always emphasized the importance of using IT in the teaching-learning process and has inspired many promising students and teachers to excel and to bring a transformation of learning to classrooms, especially in this digital age.

As an exemplary educator, he aims to cultivate patriotic values among students and always strives to instill the value of steadfastness, the importance of a lifelong pursuit of education, and the love of learning as valuable means of resistance and tools that can help overcome the challenges that face our educational system and our society that suffers constantly from barriers posed by the occupation.

He stresses that "God has blessed us Palestinians with the human resources who have proven over and over again that we can excel if we are willing to invest ourselves and persevere with sufficient effort and dedication."



*Dr. Sabri Saidam, Minister of Education and Higher Education, Palestine.*

We must continue to believe in humanity and aspire to be truly human, to give much, spread love, and never ever let go of hope.

*Khulud Darras holds a master's degree in international cooperation and development (MICAD) from Bethlehem University. She is head of the Division of International and Public Relations and Media (Directorate of Education/Bethlehem/Ministry of Education and Higher Education).*



*During a visit to the Girls Secondary School in Beit Sahour.*