

## A Role to Play

By the time you read this column, I (hopefully) will have returned from a trip to Beijing where I'm supposed to receive an award from the *World Media Summit Global Awards for Excellence 2014*. According to the WMS website, the awards honor "truth, objectivity, and excellence in journalism and encourage all people working in the media sector to keep honing their professional skills and pursue excellence, while inspiring media setups to work with the times in the spirit of innovation." A word of gratitude is in order to the people working at Xinhua (Chinese) News Agency, Palestine bureau, who insisted that we participate in this competition.

With humility I can say that we at *This Week in Palestine* do pursue excellence, and as much as possible we work with the times in the spirit of innovation. I suspect that whoever wrote "work with the times" meant moving on and not clinging to the past as the world progresses. Little did they know, however, that working with the times, as far as we Palestinians are concerned, means working in unjust circumstances where might is right and greed reigns. We work at a time when the Israeli army can raid people's offices and confiscate all their servers and computers, which, in fact, happened to us on June 22, 2014. Nevertheless, we aim to work truthfully, objectively, and in the spirit of innovation.

We are told that 562 media institutions from around the world participated in the competition and we came in second. May I highlight *second to Al-Jazeera English*, which has seemingly unlimited resources. We are proud of this recognition after over sixteen years of hard work without ever missing a single issue. Life is so overwhelming here in Palestine that a pat on our shoulder, even from as far away as China, is very much appreciated. We are also proud of this award because it is a recognition that Palestinian teamwork works and does get you somewhere. In addition, we feel that it is a clear message to those who are trying to stop us or at least hinder our work.

Moving full speed ahead, we are currently working simultaneously on two issues of *This Week in Palestine*. The first is the regular March issue that will focus on spiritual tourism, and the second is a **special issue on Jerusalem**, which should be out by mid-February. The idea behind the special issue is to shed light on the challenges that face the city. At the same time we hope it will convey **a message of hope** that something is being done about Al-Quds. Maybe not enough, but it is surely not a lost cause.

In our struggle for freedom, everyone has a role to play which need not be high profile or glamorous. Our accumulative achievements will pay off one day, but in the meantime, we simply cannot afford to sit idle and be complacent.

Warmly,  
Sani P. Meo  
Publisher

