



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Many of you might wonder why we would spend an entire issue on the banking and finance sector in Palestine. It sounds very boring, right? But, for those of us who love to read anything and everything, it is not boring at all. In fact, it is necessary. Our self-imposed mandate to promote and document Palestine means that we tackle themes that may seem, at first glance, uninteresting. This gives you, our readers, an opportunity to discover things you may have not known about Palestine.

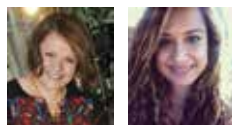
This issue is a chance for us to learn more about finance and banking within the Palestinian context. Who doesn't want to know more about money? No, really! Sure we all want more money, but perhaps one way to save or make more is to learn more about the sector.

We have articles from a diverse set of financial institutions that attempt to explain the monetary status quo in Palestine. When we started working on this issue we sent invitation letters to all banks, insurance companies, and financial institutions in Palestine. The articles featured here came from the few brave souls who responded to our invitations. We thank them for taking the time to write for us and to share their experiences and expertise with our readers.

Our "In the Limelight" section is, as always, delicious and interesting. We feature Samir Abdulhadi as personality of the month, and Ayyad Arafah as artist of the month. Our book of the month features our own Cate Malek's *Palestine Speaks*, a unique collection of stories about Palestine told by Palestinians. For *TWIP's* Kitchen, we feature the savory and sweet tradition of *taboun* baking and cooking.

We hope you will enjoy the read. And from the entire *This Week in Palestine* family, we wish you all *Ramadan Kareem*.

Riyam Kafri-AbuLaban and Tala Abu Rahmeh
Content Editors



Forthcoming Issues

July 2015: **Arts and Culture**

August 2015: **Day in the Life of**

September 2015: **Sports in Palestine II**

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