

To the President of the University of Birzeit,
Professor Abdullatif Abuhijleh
To Alalah and Al-Haq NGOs

Catania 25/7/2019

SeSaMO – The Italian Society for Middle East Studies expresses solidarity and support to the international staff teaching at academic institutions located in the occupied Palestinian territory and particularly at Birzeit University. As declared recently by this university, as well as by Al Haq and Adalah NGOs (<https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/9767>) – the international teaching staff have been facing a limitation of their freedom to enter and exit from the West Bank, and therefore of the possibility of working according to principles of academic freedom, due to increasingly restrictive visa policies on the part of the State of Israel. Such practices are causing dire consequences for the Palestinian universities and especially for their students.

Our academic society deeply believes in scientific collaboration, and in the need to guarantee the safety of researchers as an indispensable prerequisite for any kind of scientific collaboration. SeSaMO auspicates that the Israeli authorities will ensure full freedom of movement and of work to all the international colleagues teaching in the occupied Palestinian territory.

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