



We are finally closing the lid on another year. We have prepared an issue that puts 2014 in retrospect politically, economically, and culturally, and includes a comprehensive new section with updated statistics. It is also the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *This Week in Palestine*, and since the day I joined the team as content editor in June, many things have happened. I cannot say that I brought in great Karma and good luck to the magazine early on, because it was just

a few days prior to the Israeli Army raid on our offices. We are still demanding the release of our servers, data, and computers. A press released regarding the incident and our demands can be found on our new website [www.thisweekinpalestine.com](http://www.thisweekinpalestine.com).

Despite this unfortunate start, I'd say that the fortunes turned reasonably in our favour, and I have witnessed the magazine's success and expansion in unprecedented ways.

First, we finally got our new website up and running in beta version for the public. We have big plans to expand the website down the road.

Second, we have just won honourable mention at the World Media Summit in Beijing, China. This means that *This Week in Palestine's* quality and influence have been recognised on an international level and above 1,423 other international competitors.

Third, we have achieved a new milestone for the magazine's content, which is evident by our recent November issue on "Reviewing Education," nicknamed internally: the benchmark issue.

We cannot deny that it was not an easy year for Palestine, and we hope that all the traumas and tragedies we have witnessed will not keep feeding into this endless cycle of despair. It's time for the winds of change to blow in favour of our beloved country too.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new advisory board members listed below. We value their trust in our on-going project, which has managed, despite the odds, to keep going and thriving for the past 16 years.

We want to thank you, our beloved readers, for your continual support and passion. You are the real force that keeps us going. We would not be where we are today without you.

On behalf of the team of *This Week in Palestine*, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Ahmad Damen**  
Content Editor



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## ||||| Forthcoming Issues

January 2015: **Boosting the Palestinian Economy**

February 2015: **Then and Now**

March 2015: **Spiritual Tourism**

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## ||||| Advisory Board

**Vera Baboun**  
*Mayor of Bethlehem*

**Aref Hijjawi**  
*Author and media expert*

**Dr. Nabeel Kassis**  
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**Sami Khader**  
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*CEO, Communications Consultancy*