

## Sixteen Going on Seventeen

On the occasion of *This Week in Palestine*'s turning sixteen, we present to you our version of "Sixteen Going on Seventeen" from the musical *The Sound of Music*. We invite you to sing along!

*We are sixteen going on seventeen  
We know we have a dream  
Fellows we tweet may say that we're beat  
But we never run out of steam*

*We are sixteen going on seventeen  
Ours is impeccable prose  
Issues galore that readers adore  
We proudly go unopposed*

*Totally overwhelmed are we  
To meet the deadlines now  
Courage and stamina it takes  
To keep hands to the plough*

*We need no one cruel and miserly  
Telling us what to do  
You, our readers, are warmer and wiser  
We depend on you*

On to more serious matters now. As the years pass, we know that our responsibility to our readers continues to grow. We are blessed with an expanding readership on whom, as the lyrics say, we depend. We pray that we will be able to keep our commitment to promote and document Palestine in the best way we know how. The difficulties that we, as all Palestinians, face did not start for us on June 22, when the Israeli army invaded our offices and confiscated all our computers; yet somehow, as all Palestinians, we manage to survive despite it all. Incidentally, we still demand that our computers – and everything else that has been stolen from Palestinians over the years, including the land – be returned.

To end this year on an upbeat note, I am delighted to welcome our new advisory board members who have given a lot to Palestinian society and who have honoured us by becoming part of our family. In alphabetical order by family name, they are: Vera Baboun, mayor of Bethlehem; Aref Hijjawi, author and media expert; Dr. Nabeel Kassis, director of Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS); Sami Khader, director-general of Maan Development Center, and last but not least, Nour Odeh, CEO, Connect Strategic Communications Consultancy. We look forward to their input and engagement that will no doubt benefit *This Week in Palestine*.

Finally, to all those celebrating Christmas and the New Year, *This Week in Palestine* wishes you a Merry Christmas and a great New Year.

**Warmly,  
Sani P. Meo  
Publisher**

