

## Laerdal at Palestine!!



Interviewer: Jamal Musa/Al-Quds University

While we were wondering in Al-Quds University campus, a name and a slogan on a cafeteria attracted our attention. It was a name of a Norwegian town, we were curious to know how it come that a cafeteria bears a Norwegian name! Then, we asked the owner of the cafeteria, and made an interview:

- May you introduce yourself?
- Issa Ariqat.
- Mr. Issa, we've known that you're a government employee, and you are enrolled in the Higher Studies at the university?
- That's right, and I run this cafeteria.
- Are you married?
- Yes, I've two sons and one daughter.
- How do you organize your time having two jobs?
- Certainly, I do my best so that I could organize my life.
- Could you explain what does Laerdal mean, and why did you choose it?

- Laerdal is a beautiful town in Norway, it has a stunning nature, and it has the longest tunnel in the world cored into a mountain, it reaches 24 km. The town also has an ancient church called Stave church built 700 years ago, the church has a slogan of a double dragon head, which Laerdal later took it as a motto. The citizens in that town are very hospitable, and they really very sympathized with our Palestinian question. Really they are great!
- a. Why did you name your cafeteria "Laerdal"?
- Al-Quds University embraces 14,000 students, nearly third of this number intend this café. The café lies amongst Colleges of Science, Medicine, Engineering and Art. I wrote Laerdal as it written in Norwegian language. Many students wonder why to choose this name, I answer with pleasure that it is a Norwegian town, and I give them a glimpse about it to be familiar to most students. Moreover, I names the wireless network (Wi Fi) "Laerdal" so that the name appear on the screen of every student's laptop or mobile when linked with the network.
  - How come you have such wide knowledge about the town?
  - I visited the town while I was enrolled in Al-Quds Open University at the city of Jericho which has a twinning relationship with Laerdal since 15 years. Mutual visits are made between the two cities.



- So, you just visited Laerdal once, but you admire it so much?
- Unfortunately, just one time, and I do admire it and its people.
- And you advise others to visit it?
- Certainly, I wish all those who I love them to visit it, mainly my parents and my friends here who work in this café. I'm very fond of this town, and I do always describe its lovely nature to others.
- Finally, Issa, do you like to add anything?
- I'd like to thank Norway government and its people for their permanent support to the Palestinian question, and mainly the citizens of Laerdal, they are indeed lovely friends.
- Thank you Mr. Issa, and I wish you all success in your work and study, and thank you for being with us.



Freedom must have no limits or borders. I wish everyone to have the opportunity to visit Laerdal despite of the Israeli occupation, and the apartheid wall. The Palestinian like freedom, nature, and the friendly nations who support Palestine, mainly the nation of Norway.







