

STATEMENT BY MR. JIBRIL RAJOUR

PRESIDENT OF THE PALESTINIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Dear brother Jerome,

The day of my first election to the presidency of the Palestinian FA (PFA) in May 2008, the first congratulatory phone call I received from FIFA was yours. You promised me all the support I and Palestinian football would need to achieve our goals of dignity and freedom. And you kept your promise!

Between 2008 and 2010 when you were still in FIFA, you worked endlessly for the completion of the first Palestinian stadium meeting FIFA's international standards and we organized together the first-ever international friendly match held on Palestinian soil for the inauguration of the Ram Stadium in October 2008 in the presence of the FIFA President, Mr. Joseph Blatter.

After your departure from FIFA, you started working as an adviser to the PFA in September 2010 and you helped in so many directions: reorganization of the PFA, launch of the professional league, establishment of a marketing program, additional FIFA Goal projects with more so-badly needed artificial fields, a new HQ and a youth academy.

And at last, the PFA could organize in 2011 the first-ever competition qualifying matches at home for the FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014 and the Olympic Games London 2012.

But more importantly than all of that, you have been all those years always available when Palestinian football needed you, night and day, weekdays and weekend days, in Zurich, in Palestine, or elsewhere from Jeddah to New York and São Paulo.

To prepare a visit, to help us better understand FIFA's rules and procedures, to advise us on development programs and on international issues, and even when it is necessary to discuss on our behalf with our Israeli neighbors: I could always rely on you!

You are competent, dedicated to your objectives, efficient and result-oriented. You know the history of Palestinian football better than most of Palestinians. And above all, you love justice and freedom.

For all these reasons, the PFA and the Palestinian football community fully endorse and support your candidacy to become the next FIFA President on the 26 February 2016.