

Feb. 12, 1983

Re: Mr. Muhammad Mas'ad

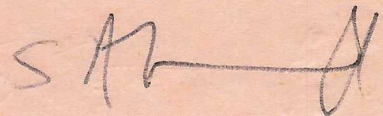
I am very happy to be writing this recommendation for Mr. Mas'ad, and hope very much that it will be of help for him in his effort to develop his career.

I have known Mr. Mas'ad first as a student and later as a colleague. When he applied to be an academic assistant in our department, I was very much in favour of his application. My reasons at first were entirely academic: he showed deep interest in and comprehension of philosophical issues that were raised in the classroom. I felt that his attitude to these issues was not simply that of a neutral scholar. Rather, problems worried him. He kept seeing questions that lay behind formal answers, and this made him seek even more answers, read more, and argue more. In a special trial seminar I participated in giving on "freedom", where students were asked to develop their definitions on the basis of real-life local issues (e.g. academic freedom, political freedom, etc). Mr. Mas'ad proved to be of enormous value both in terms of digging up issues and crystallizing them for discussion, and in terms of setting an example to other students in the seminar.

I later began to know Mr. Mas'ad as a colleague, where, as an academic assistant, I began to appraise him both as a teacher as well as a member of various departmental committees. He proved to be hard-working, competent and a source of ideas for improving our programme. As for his relations with students, not only was he deeply respected for his hard work and devotion, but also for his continuous efforts to make his subject understood.

Mr. Mas'ad was first interested in politics as a field of study. But as our philosophy programme developed, he too began to develop an interest in philosophy. He then was able to develop his interest in both fields by concentrating on political theory.

I very strongly recommend him to be admitted in your programme for further study. We at Birzeit are tremendously interested in him, and are looking forward to the time when he will return to our programme having had the opportunity to develop his interests through more study and research.



Sari Nuseibeh (Ph.D. Harvard '78)
Coordinator Philosophy Programme