



Suliman Abu Sbeih - Security Guard



People often think about the Doctors and the Nurses, but everybody involved matters. Here we talk to, Suliman Abu Sbeih, who works in security, and who has the job of making sure that the patients and the staff are safe.

"Before I was in security, I was working in theatre as a porter taking people upstairs to the wards and before that I worked as security driver. I have now worked here 33 years. I am very happy here"

So why are you still here?

"They pay me a generous salary, [laughs] they are very kind, and I live here in Jerusalem, in the old city. Before my 33 years, I even come here to help the old hospitaller generally in the hospital. I love St. Johns."

What is it that makes you love it?

"I love all the people here. They all do good work here, very good work in St. Johns for everyone that comes. It doesn't matter who."

You have had quite a variety of jobs here, what was it that made you apply here 33 years ago?

"I had been to help people here, by driving them around. People who worked here were kind and they cared. My friends said it is a good job here, everybody was telling me that it was a good job here. When they asked, I said yes."

As for family life:

"I live in the Old City, on the Via Dolorosa. I have 2 boys and 4 girls. They don't work here yet but my son, like me works in security in Jerusalem."

We visited at the time of the Israeli National Flag day and asked if this is a particularly difficult time to be working in Jerusalem:

"It always is, but I was working yesterday, [on National Flag Day] and we will still look after Israeli and Jewish people. It is what we do. I live in the Old City, and to get to the hospital from my home, I still have to go through the Damascus Gate. It can be difficult but I leave my home in time to get to work."

"I work different shifts, 7.00 in the morning till 3.00 in the afternoon, or the afternoon one until 7.00 in the evening and sometimes the night shift till 7.00 in the morning. There are 3 shifts. I have a car that I park at the Damascus Gate, I put money in the box at the Gate, and I can now drive to work."

"I also work at the Muristan Clinic too, which is easier as it is in the Old City and I can walk there. I am lucky as my work means I can do many things to help."



In 2022 SJEHG employed 260 people across Palestine and one of its strategic aims is to become the employer of choice in the community.