May 13, 2022

Dear Members of the AUB Community,

The murder of the iconic Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh on May 11, 2022 did more than deprive the world of a brave, determined, accomplished woman journalist of the highest caliber. It removed an undeterred champion of Palestine, a symbol of hope, a voice for the voiceless, and an inspiration to brave women everywhere. The Board of Trustees of the American University of Beirut and its administration believe that it is vital to preserve Shireen Abu Akleh’s timeless example of hope for Palestinians and women.

To honor her memory, the Board of Trustees of the American University of Beirut in full partnership with the Yafa Foundation announce the establishment of the Shireen Abu Akleh Endowed Memorial Scholarship. The endowment will fund scholarships for women from Palestine to obtain master’s degrees in media studies at the region’s oldest and finest university, with applications to be considered immediately.

The Yafa Foundation and the American University of Beirut are convinced that the best way to commemorate and celebrate the life of Shireen Abu Akleh, an enduring figure of hope and peace, is to create opportunities for others to follow along her path while blazing their own, to bear witness to the truth and keep hope alive, for this generation and those to follow.

Best regards,

Fadlo R. Khuri, MD
President