

Citation for Munib Masri

Munib Masri is an enormously successful international businessman and entrepreneur. But he has always understood that success in business is not an end in itself, there must be something higher to which we aspire.

While Munib Masri has always had a special flair for business, his real passion is his homeland and his commitment to the people and place of Palestine is deep-rooted. He has long used his wealth to aid his fellow Palestinians, sponsoring important initiatives in education, health care, people with special needs, elderly, and social welfare which have had a far-ranging impact on millions of people. He cofounded and chaired PADICO, whose mission is to develop Palestinian infrastructure and strengthen the economy. He has rebuilt houses bulldozed by Israelis, paid for medications for impoverished people, and assumed tuition fees for hundreds of university students. Even further, he has a deep commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of Palestine and cultivating a Palestinian national identity.

Munib Masri's philanthropy reaches well beyond the borders of Palestine. A long-time friend of this university, Munib Masri has served on our board of trustees and is currently a trustee emeritus. Masri is also an accomplished government figure. He is a member of the Palestine National Council and the PLO's Central Committee, and a former minister in the Jordanian government. More recently he formed *Muntada Felasteen*, the Palestine Forum, an organization devoted to mediating unity among the Palestinian leadership.

Munib Masri has a vision for the future, and that vision is based around the realization of an independent Palestinian state. This work is enormously hard, often under-appreciated, but crucially important—not only for Palestinians, but for us all.