



THE ARCHBISHOP
UPPSALA

Prof. George Sabra
President
Near East School of Theology
Beirut, Lebanon

Uppsala 14 August, 2020

Dear Prof. Sabra,

Please accept my most heartfelt sympathies as you are navigating the aftermaths of the devastating explosion in Beirut last week.

I understand that NEST was affected severely, although, thank God, no person was physically injured on the premises. In these difficult times for Lebanon and its beautiful but tried capital, and indeed for the whole of the Middle East, the role of NEST is of utmost importance.

As you rebuild, I would like to assure you that the Church of Sweden remains committed to solidarity with and support of NEST. Crisis is also always a call for good and sound theology! Through your work, you are an agent of hope in the lives of people and communities throughout the region, with a concern for the whole range of human need.

I hope and pray that you may be sustained, comforted and empowered by the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit, “for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1.7).

Yours in Christ,

The Most Rev Dr Antje Jackelén
Archbishop