

DEDICATION

In the scales of concentrated sadness, the sudden loss of an exceptional compatriot is one of the most acute. In the early morning of July 11, 2005, Mr. Abdulkadir Yahya Ali was assassinated at his residence in Mogadishu, and in front of his wife. Activists come in a variable quality; Abdulkadir was sterling—that is, he was a tireless, courageous, reasoned, and optimistic devotee of national reconciliation and peace, and a founding member of the National Civic Forum. He joins the unsung heroes whose lives have been cut short by murderers antithetical to the return of national solidarity and justice to Somali time. We pray that Allah will reward him for his noble earthly deeds on behalf of the Somali people.

This volume of *Bildhaan* is dedicated to Abdulkadir's memory. Our collective bereavement is best expressed by the following threnodic poem composed the day after by our colleague, Ms. Amina Said Ali.

Yaxyoow eber baan dareena
ayaamahaan,
Lilaha nabadda iyo waxaa ooyey
guri aqoon,
Indheer garataa akhbaartii
aroora go ay,
Inkastood iilkii gashoo
aminkeeni lumay,
Erayadaadaa aflaxoo maadan
naga agtegin,
Abuurkaad beertay nabad
oogid agabdhigeed,
Ka aamusii meeyno ergadaadii
weey adkaan,
Ilaah idenkiisa arligeena weey
ekeyyn.

Oh Yahya, we feel nothing
these days,
The Allah of peace and the house
of wisdom are in mourning,
The intellectual slain in the
early hours of the morning,
Though you are in the grave
and our trust is damaged,
Your words echo and you have
not left us,
What you have sewn for the
sake of usable peace,
We will not be silent about and
your mission will endure,
And with Allah wish it will
cover the fullness of our land.