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,
Ilaha 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 aamusi meeyno ergadaadii weey adkaan,
Ilaah idenkiisa arligeena weey ekeeyn.

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.