

Dr. Abdelhalim Sabbar

A Tribute

Presented in the Russian Federation by Herman Bell at

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Nothing could equal the value to a native speaker of the Nubian languages with a thorough knowledge of appropriate research techniques. On the 1st of May 2017 the world lost Dr. Abdelhalim Sabbar, who possessed an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Nobíin Nubian language.



Dr. Abdelhalim Sabbar.

A qualified medical doctor, he was devoted to teaching the Nubian language and restoring it to its full potential.

He worked with scholarly criticism and medical precision. Recently he produced several thought-provoking articles for the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Workshop on Exonyms).¹

Almost every encounter with him stimulated thoughts worthy of publication. His colleagues will greatly miss his challenges and guidance. He had unrivaled insights into the intangible heritage of Nubia. He excelled in research, analysis and conceptualizing the future role of the Nubian languages and culture.

¹ E.g., Sabbar 2012. Numbers as geographical names in Nubia: Endonyms or exonyms? In Paul Woodman (ed.) 2012. *The Great Toponymic Divide. Reflections on the definitions and usage of endonyms and exonyms*. Warsaw/Warszawa: Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography, pp. 105-110

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