



HARARI ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY

(H.A.J.E)

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H.A.J.E Press release:

The Passing of Abdulrahman Mohamed Sabri (Aka: Abdi Sabri)

Harari Alliance for Justice and Equality (HAJE)

Oct-30, 2020

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



Abdi Mohamed Sabri was born of Asha Ibrahim Lazim and Mohamed Ibrahim Sabri in 1958, European calendar, in Addis Ababa. He was the second child of his 5 siblings.

When friends and relatives describe Abdi, he loved soccer and politics. Most importantly he was generous, polite and went extra miles to help his friends and other people who came to seek help from him. One never saw Abdi angry; he was always smiling even when he was faced with difficult conversation. Abdi was a person one enjoys having as a friend. He had the same friends whether they are poor or well to do and never abandoned them; he remained throughout his life a loyal friend.

Abdi started to take responsibility in his early age. He joined his father's business to help when the business was not doing well. He understood that he had to care for his family while most of his friends enjoyed life, he worked extended hours managing the business. His diligent and his ability to connect with people made him successful in his business.

ENGAGEMENT IN POLITICS

Abdi's political engagement started early in his youth. While he was working in the family business and going to school, he made time to engage in the student movement of his time. He had participated in several demonstrations including in the Great Ethiopian Muslims demonstration in 1974, when the Ethiopian Muslim demonstrated in hundreds of thousands demanding equal rights as citizens of the country. He was one of the active members in Adere Sefer (Gey Sefer) who were helping to write slogans for the demonstration.

During the Derg era, Abdi was also at the forefront fighting the military dictatorship. He was arrested and later released by some divine intervention. Many of the people who were arrested with him were either killed or jailed for years. Despite being jailed for his convictions, he and his friends founded a political group named "HAFNAL" to engage Hararis in the struggle against the Derg.



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Hararis working together towards a common goal!



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After the fall of Derg and when EPRDF assumed power, Abdi again was at the forefront to actively engage in Harari politics in particular and Ethiopia in general. He had participated in all meetings leading to the formation of the Harari Regional State and was supportive of the early leadership of the Harari Regional State. Because of his honest personality, he was able to foster close relationship with EPRDF leadership at the highest level. He had the opportunity to meet with Melese Zenawi and other top TPLF leaders.

In 2007, during the Harari Millennium Celebration, he was the leading member to oversee the sporting activities and coordination for the event. During this event, he saw how HNL was disorganized and was not working for the interest of Hararis.

He decided to galvanize likeminded friends who were disappointed by HNL performance and founded Harari Democratic Party (HADID), as an alternative Political Party to HNL. Abdi and his cohort immediately registered the party to obtain legal status as a political party. They were successful in obtaining the legal status from the National Election Board and started to organize Hararis in Harar and in major cities. In 2010, HADID participated in the regional election. During the campaign, the leadership of HADID had faced enormous harassment by then HNL; they were denied opening an office in Harar and at the height of the campaign they were told to leave Harar immediately where they went to Dire Dawa to continue their campaign. Although they were told they lost the election, Abdi never stopped to continue the fight. He was instrumental in exposing the predicament of Hararis, he reached out to the diaspora community and articulated eloquently the condition of Hararis and Harar on many forums. He was invited as guest speaker at the Harari Sport Festival which took place in Memphis and addressed the political, social and economic conditions of the Harari people under HNL. Most recent, this year, he participated in Mekele on the Federalist Forum advocating for self-rule.

Abdi will be remembered as a person who fought for justice and equality, he believed that Hararis must unite and organize to protect the Harari nation. He called upon the Hararis in the diaspora and alerted on his very last call to get organized and stand together to continue the fight for justice.

All in all, Abdi Sabri dedicated all his life in service of others selflessly and was generous and a true family man. Abdi was married to Samya Adem, who supported him during all his tumultuous political life. Samya and him have four children: Nesmi Abdi Sabri, Amir Abdi Sabri, Lazim Abdi Sabri and Mina Abdi Sabri.

May Allah put his mercy upon him. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Samya Adem and his children and the rest of his family member, HADDID members and his friends.



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