

### Abdulkader M. Abed (1943-2021)

It is with great regret, all those involved with the Journal, as represented by its Editorial, Associate, and International Boards, were saddened by the news of Professor Abdulkader Abed death on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021. He was one of the early founders of the Jordan Journal of Natural History and effectively contributed to its advancement.

Born in 1943, Abed grew up in Hatta village in Palestine, moving with his family to Jordan, where he finished his elementary and preparatory degree in Al Karameh (northern Jordan) in 1958, then the general school certificate in 1960.

His passion for geology started very early in his life when he used to collect oil shale rocks and wondered how they can give fire. He joined Damascus University in 1960 to study geology, he was one of the excellent students with high rank, he graduated in 1964, then joined Southampton University in the UK, to study Sedimentology and Sedimentary Geochemistry, and completed his PhD by the summer of 1972. At that time, he made his journey back to Jordan from the United Kingdom by train to enjoy the different eras of geological formations along his way back through Europe, Turkey, Syria then Jordan.

In 1974, he secured a place at King Abdulaziz University, in Jeddah / Saudi Arabia as an Assistant Professor. At that time Prof. Abed explored the basalt lava of the Medina, and engaged in teaching for 2 years, to move afterwards to the University of Jordan and established with his colleagues the Department of Geology. In this department, he built his academic advancement, engaged in teaching, supervising students, and sometimes chairing the department.

While he was teaching at the University, Abed started to explore the geology of Jordan, inspired by the knowledge gained from his PhD. Abed was enthusiastic about geology and was looking forward to empowering geologists in exploring the treasures of Jordan, water harvesting planning, infrastructures, education, and much more.



As a teacher, he was well known for his exceptional capabilities in transferring knowledge to his students, which he did with a delightful and passionate spirit that conveyed his own love of geology, geomorphology, and astronomy. He even was an active member in Jordanian Academy of Arabic being an excellent Arabic scholar, which allowed him to transfer a lot of knowledge in a simplified pure Arabic language “Fusha”. He never accepted to finish the basic geology course without having his students on the course field trip, where they enjoyed the practical knowledge and Abed’s distinguished companionship.

Professor Abed supported RSCN over many years. His involvement continued to the end of his life. He devoted much of his time to identify the geology of protected areas, preparing the designation file of Mujib Biosphere Reserve to be a global UNESCO Geopark, and helping jointly with his colleague Prof. Al Eisawi (1946-2020) in organising and supervising the annual scientific conference of RSCN.

His scientific legacy exceeded 150 publications and over 20 books including a Geology of Jordan, and a summary of the geology of Jordan jointly prepared with RSCN one year before his death. His last published book is: *The sky doom speaks Arabic* published in Arabic after his death.

In his academic life; he supervised many



Prof. Abed exploring a land crack in the Hammad Deseret in Ruwaished, at the southeastern border.

Masters and PhD students and build their capacities in many fields of geology. Some of them became professors in the geology department at Jordan University.

Professor Abed is well-known to international and highly esteemed geological associations such as Mineralogical Society (London, 1978), Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists (SEPM) 1981, International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) 1985, Jordanian Geologists Association, Arab Geologists Association 1976, and Islamic

Crescents' Observation Project 1998.

The family of the Jordan Journal of Natural History sends its deepest condolences to Professor Abed's family for their loss. Professor Abed will never be forgotten by his colleagues, his students, and the scientific community. We will treasure our memories of him and he will stay connected to our hearts forever.

**Nashat A. Hamidan**  
nashat@rscn.org.jo