

IBRAHIM MUSA MOHAMMED

1953–2024

Professor Ibrahim Musa Mohammad Hamdoun was born in El Fasher in 1953. He grew up in the El Wakala district at El Fasher. He studied in Khalwat Sheikh El Tijani Abdel Majid, then he went to the middle school in Zalingei city. Life circumstances forced him to work as a writer in El Fasher court and learn to type on a typewriter machine, this was a major advantage in the 1960s. Ibrahim was distinguished in running races, and he contributed to winning many sports trophies, especially in the Fathers' Day Festival that was organized by El-Fasher Secondary School. He finished El-Fasher Secondary School in 1966, after which he joined the University of Khartoum in 1967 and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Arts, with degree second honors in History from the University of Khartoum in 1972, and a diploma in public administration from the Institute of Public Administration in 1973.

In 1976, he obtained a certificate in applied studies in French language from the University of Geneva (Switzerland) and in 1977 an equivalent Bachelor of Arts from the same university. In 1985 he was awarded the degree Doctor of Philosophy in Archaeology from the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom).

During his academic career, Professor Ibrahim Musa received many awards: he won the award for the best student in History (middle year) in 1969 at Khartoum University, and in 1971 the Welcher award for the best student in the final year in the Department of History, University of Khartoum. He received a scholarship from the Centre for Oriental Studies at the University of Geneva and a federal scholarship for foreign students in Zurich (Switzerland) in the years 1974–1977 as well as a Sudanese government scholarship for postgraduate studies in the United Kingdom from 1978–1982.

Since 1972 Professor Ibrahim Musa has held many academic positions as a teaching assistant at

the Department of Archaeology, University of Khartoum, and a researcher for postgraduate studies at the University of Cambridge. He became lecturer, assistant professor, and associate professor in the Department of Historical and Archaeological Studies, Faculty of Arts and Education, University of Qar Yunis, Benghazi, Libya in 1987. In 1996 he returned to Sudan and he worked as an associate professor in the Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Education and Human Studies at the International University of Africa in Khartoum until 1997. The same year he left Sudan again and became an associate professor in the Department of Archaeology, College of Arts – Sana'a University in Yemen. He held this position until 2007.

Back to Sudan, Professor Ibrahim Musa worked in the civil service from 2008 to 2013 as director of the Peace Agreements Department, director of the Follow-up Department, and finally director of the Publishing and Documentation Department in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Sudan. In 2013 he was appointed to the Department of Archaeology at Al-Neelain University and served this University in different positions until his death. In late 2021 he was appointed as Director General of the National Cooperation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM).

In the field of academic expertise, Professor Ibrahim has extensive academic experience in the field of teaching archaeology, history, tourism, art history, ancient civilizations, ancient and traditional industries, the antiquities of the Darfur region, regional archaeology, and archaeological research methods. From the year 1973 until 2023, he taught more than 38 courses at the University of Khartoum, University of Qar Younis in Benghazi, at the International University of Africa (Sudan), at Sana'a University (Yemen) and lastly in the Department of Archaeology at University of Al-Neelain (Sudan).





In front of the main entrance of the National Museum, Prague 12th International conference of Meroitic studies. From the left: Sami El-Min (NCAM), Mohamed Al Badri (University of Khartoum), Awad Al Kareem Bakhiet (University of Shandi), Ibrahim Musa (University of Al Neelain), Hamad Mohamed (University of Al Neelain), Mohamed El Toum (NCAM), Mohamed Al Fatih Hayati (University of Khartoum).

As for supervising theses, from 1994 until 2024, Professor Ibrahim supervised many master's and doctoral theses in the fields of archaeology, tourism, and ancient history. He also became an external examiner in many Sudanese, Arab, and European universities.

Professor Ibrahim Musa has participated in many field works in Sudan since 1968: at the city of Meroe in cooperation with the Sudanese-Canadian mission (University of Khartoum and University of Calgary), in the excavations of the University of Khartoum in northern Omdurman and in the Darfur region. During his stay in Libya (1987–1996) he participated in many excavations in archaeological sites on the Libyan coast and desert. He carried out field work with the Department of Archaeology at Sana'a University during his work in Yemen in the period from 1997–2007. He became a member in many field missions for the Department of Archaeology at the University of Al-Neelain in the East Sabaloka Archaeological Project since 2013.

Professor Ibrahim Musa has participated in many international scientific conferences related to the

field of Sudanese archaeology and presented many papers in the field of Islamic archaeology, the archaeology of Darfur region, iron and copper techniques in Sudan, as well as topics related with rock arts and tourism.

His publications cover a wide range of topics, most noticeable is his monography *The Archaeology of Central Darfur in the first Millennium AD* (1986) published in BAR International Series no 285, which is considered an indispensable reference for the archaeology of Darfur region. Moreover, he presented a book on *The Hawakir System in Darfur* and a book on *Sudanese borders*. His scientific papers published in international, regional, and local scientific journals focused on the topics of Islamic archaeology, archaeology of the Darfur region, iron techniques, and rock drawings. He leaves some works in print (*Archaeology and Contemporary Societies: Seeing the Past from the Window of the Present* and *Rock Art: Artistic Creations and Cultural Connotations in the Libyan Desert, the Nile, and the Darfur Coast*) and was recently working on translating some books into Arabic (*The Rock Arts of the Jebel Uweinat* by Francis Van Noten, and *Histoire de*



Professor Ibrahim Musa in the defence of MA thesis for student Hamad Mohamed Hamdeen 6 May 2015 at Department of Archaeology, University of Khartoum. From the left: Ali Osman Mohamed Salih, Ibrahim Musa, Yahia Fad Tahir, Hamad Mohamed Hamdeen.

l'Afrique: 1 les grandes royaumes by Marie-France Briselance).

Professor Ibrahim Musa was a member of many associations and societies and supported many committees on scholarships with his advise. It is only consistent that as the author of the book *Sudanese borders* he became a member of the International Boundary Committee between the Republic of Sudan and neighboring countries, and of the committee for demarcating the internal borders of the eastern Sudan states at the National Commission in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Sudan

The death of Professor Ibrahim Musa on 14 January 2024 in Egypt after a long struggle with illness is considered a loss to the Sudanese archaeological community and to the Department of Archaeology at the University of Al Neelain, where Professor Ibrahim Musa is considered one of the pillars of this department. Professor Ibrahim Musa contributed with his long experience in the field of archaeology to the development of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Al Neelain in terms of teaching various courses to undergraduate students, as well

as supervising postgraduate theses at the masters and doctoral level in addition to his participation in many committees in the department, college of arts, and committees of the university professors' boards.

Professor Ibrahim Musa, with great humility, patience, and perseverance, is good at listening and listens silently and politely, chaste, honest, loyal to his knowledge, full of humor and fun. He is loving his family and colleagues in the Department of Archaeology, University of Al Neelain, and he did what he could to raise their status and highlight their exploits and glories.

Warm condolences from the Department of Archaeology to his family, his relatives in Al Fasher and Darfur, his colleagues at the University of Al Neelain, NCAM, the Sudanese archaeological community, and every loved and known him.

We ask God for mercy and forgiveness for him and may God admit him to Paradise with the martyrs and prophets. Ameen.

HAMAD MOHAMED HAMDEEN



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