Commemoration ceremony, Dr. Wissam Al-Hashimi

On 12 February 2013 a ceremony was held at the Burlington House, London, to commemorate Dr. Wissam Al-Hashimi who was kidnapped, tortured and brutally killed by terrorists in August 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq.

Dr. Wissam Al-Hashimi was President of the Geological Society of Iraq, the Secretary-General of the Arab Geological Association (AGA) since 1993 and Vice-President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) from 1996-2002. A well known engineering geologist with significant experience in underground construction, Dr. Al-Hashimi was invited to contribute to the First International Conference on Sustainable Development and Management of the Subsurface, held at Utrecht, The Netherlands in 2003. His article on 'the underground city of Al-Najaf, Iraq' was recently published in a book: *Sustainable Development and Management of the shallow Subsurface*. This book was dedicated to Dr. Wissam Al-Hashimi and to his legacy for the global geoscientific community.

At the ceremony, first copies of the book were presented to his widow Mrs. Muatabar Hasan and to his daughters Farah and Balsam Wissam-Al-Hashimi, who attended the ceremony in person together with other family members and friends. The other dignitaries who attended the ceremony include the President of the Geological Society of London, David Shilston, the President of the International Union of Geological Sciences represented by Dr. Eduardo de Mulder, the authors of the book, the cultural attaché of the Iraqi Embassy in the UK and the Editor of *Geoscientist* magazine, Ted Nield.

David Shilston, President of the Geological Society of London welcomed the delegates and Dr. Robert Hack, co-author of the book, presented some highlights of the book. Dr. Eduardo de Mulder, co-author of the book and former President of the IUGS, whose term

From left to right: Eduardo de Mulder (Director Earth Science Matters Foundation, Miss Balsam Wissam Al-Hashimi (Wissam Al-Hashimi's daughter), Mrs Muatabar Hasan (Wissam Al-Hashimi's widow) , David Shilston (President Geological Society of London), and Ms Farah Wissam Al-Hashimi (Wissam Al-Hashimi's daughter).

partly overlapped with that of Dr. Al-Hashimi as Vice-President of this organisation recalled his personal observations and the significance of Dr. Al-Hashimi for the global geoscience community. The programme came to an end with the vote of thanks presented on behalf of the Al-Hashimi by Mrs. Muatabar Hasan.

The ceremony was recorded for broadcast on Iraqi National TV. The event was organised by the Geological Society of London, IUGS, the Earth Matters Foundation and by the authors of the book.

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