

OBITUARY

Professor Dr Jamaluddin Atiyyah (1928-2017)

Muhammad Adha Shaleh

On Thursday night, 12 January 2017 (15 Rabiul Akhir 1438), Professor Jamaluddin Atiyyah passed away at the age of 89. He possessed the mind and intellect of a great servant of the *Ummah* and of the contemporary Muslim world. We deeply mourn the demise of this great leader. The passing of this great man evokes the Prophetic tradition: “God does not take away knowledge by taking it away from the hearts of the people, but He takes it away by the death of the religious learned man.”

Professor Dr Jamaluddin Atiyyah was a leader and role model who excelled in many fields. His work and knowledge contributed to the management and implementation of the Islamic mission.

He was a founding participant in the Islamic movement of Egypt. He faced various challenges in the midst of this crucial journey. He forged a path to the renewal of the intellectual capacities of contemporary Muslims. In this regard, he founded ‘*al-Muslim al-Muaasir*’, a thoughtful magazine praised by his admirers for extensively infusing precious knowledge in contemporary minds.

He led many other arenas in the Arab Muslim world via his seminal academic works, research, management, and legal actions. As a jurist and leader of creativity and innovation, he sat at the forefront of the Muslim world. Instances of his myriad other contributions, and which transcended nations and continents, include the *Encyclopaedia of Contemporary Fiqh*, *Encyclopaedia of Fiqh for the Kuwait Ministry of Endowments*, and his work as Chief Executive Officer for the International Islamic Bank in Luxembourg (now known as the Global Islamic Finance House), as Shariah adviser to several academic institutions, a consultant for the World Institute of Islamic Thought (Washington), and a member of many associations and scientific institutions throughout the world.

Professor Jamaluddin offered a wealth of knowledge and ideas in *fiqh*, *usul fiqh*, *fiqh aqaliyat*, *fiqh maqasid*, *qawaiid fiqhiyah*, as well as in more general areas of Islamic Studies. He brought together solid arguments, penetrating accuracy of detail and diligent and careful scholarly thought while processing insights on matters that concern the *Ummah*.

We pray that God counts our professor as among the righteous, upon whom descend the pleasures, forgiveness, pardon and mercies of God. May the Almighty give us patience to bear with his loss. Alhamdulillah he has left us a lasting legacy that we can benefit from. May the Almighty God reward our professor with paradise.