

## **Henry Dunant Medal**

### **Tribute to**

### **Fouad Hamza**

Dr Fouad Hamza, an orthodontist by profession, became involved early on in his career in the activities of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. He played an active part in social programmes and in the promotion of branch development, winning wide support and recognition for his outstanding work for his home Society. He was elected president of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in 1978 and was re-elected several times until 1998. He held other positions until he retired in 2005.

Dr Hamza vigorously developed the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's activities on behalf of vulnerable people and won a broad base of support for this important work. He was committed to the fundamental mission of the Movement and saw to it that his Society served the humanitarian cause effectively both at home and throughout the region.

In addition to putting the Syrian Arab Red Crescent on the path to development, Dr Hamza played an important part in the international activities of the Movement. He promoted exchanges between National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as a means of promoting mutual understanding and cooperation. He took part in all Movement forums and contributed to the debates.

Dr Hamza was highly esteemed by his peers. He was twice elected vice-president of the International Federation and chaired its General Assembly in Brazil in 1987. In addition, he chaired the International Federation's commission on Strategy 2010 and helped devise a vision for the Federation of the Future that positioned the International Federation on the humanitarian stage. He was knowledgeable about geopolitics and participated in the Standing Commission led process on the emblems.

Dr Hamza is a real humanitarian. His compassion for his fellow human beings has often prompted him to go out of his way to help others. His open attitude and easy manner have earned him respect and appreciation throughout the Movement.

For his personal commitment, his important contribution to the development of humanitarian activities, and for his work in promoting the Movement's Fundamental Principles and ideals, the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has unanimously agreed to award Dr Fouad Hamza the Henry Dunant Medal, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's highest distinction.

Nairobi, 23 November 2009

H.E. Dr Mohammed Al-Hadid  
Chairman

Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent