**A giant of an African intellectual the dedicated and committed socialist SAMIR AMIN**

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**A giant of an African intellectual, the dedicated and committed socialist SAMIR AMIN has passed on. My incoherent note on receiving the news: Comrades, friends, colleagues Shocking, shocking, devastating. The legend has fallen. Our most consistent, humble, friendly comrade has gone.**

It is a very sad day... I saw Samir for a week, in Dakar, just six months ago - he was sharp as ever, generous and inspiring at age 86. His hospitalisation last week included a temporary memory loss, yet I think he went out in the kind of style Bertram Russell described below.

I'll excerpt some of his auto-biographical material in coming hours/days. Here is a political profile interview by Lau Kin Chi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsMkQWRpduw>

[Bertrand Russell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bertrand_Russell) in his essay “[How To Grow Old](https://www.douban.com/group/topic/21449666/).”

The best way to overcome it [the fear of death]—so at least it seems to me—is to make your interests gradually wider and more impersonal, until bit by bit the walls of the ego recede, and your life becomes increasingly merged in the universal life. An individual human existence should be like a river: small at first, narrowly contained within its banks, and rushing passionately past rocks and over waterfalls. Gradually the river grows wider, the banks recede, the waters flow more quietly, and in the end, without any visible break, they become merged in the sea, and painlessly lose their individual being. The man who, in old age, can see his life in this way, will not suffer from the fear of death, since the things he cares for will continue. And if, with the decay of vitality, weariness increases, the thought of rest will not be unwelcome. I should wish to die while still at work, knowing that others will carry on what I can no longer do and content in the thought that what was possible has been done.