

Notes



JOAN B. KROC
INSTITUTE FOR
PEACE & JUSTICE
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO



“Working Towards a Lasting Peace in the Ogaden”

A conference on the political and humanitarian situation
in the Ogaden

December 7, 2007

Convened by
Ogaden Voice for Peace (OVP) and
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ),
University of San Diego

Location: Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre



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*We are grateful to The California Endowment, The Jacobs Foundation,
and Shidaal Express for helping to make this conference possible.*

Program of Events

REGISTRATION 2:30pm - 3:15pm

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION 3:15pm - 3:35pm
(Co-sponsoring organizations)
 Joyce Neu (IPJ) and Abdi Mohamoud (OVP)

PANEL 1: Causes and Consequences of Conflict 3:40pm - 4:40pm

“Food Shortages, Drought and Famine in the Ogaden: Causes and Solutions”
 Presenter: Mahamud Ugas Muhumed, Board Member and Researcher
 Ogaden Human Rights Committee

“Effects of Torture on African refugees in the Diaspora”
 Presenter: David Gangsei, Clinical Director
 Survivors of Torture, International

“Advocacy and Empowerment from the Ground Up”
 Presenter: Keif Schleifer, Executive Director
 The Empowerment Initiative

BREAK 4:40pm - 5:00pm

QUESTION & ANSWER 5:00pm - 5:20pm

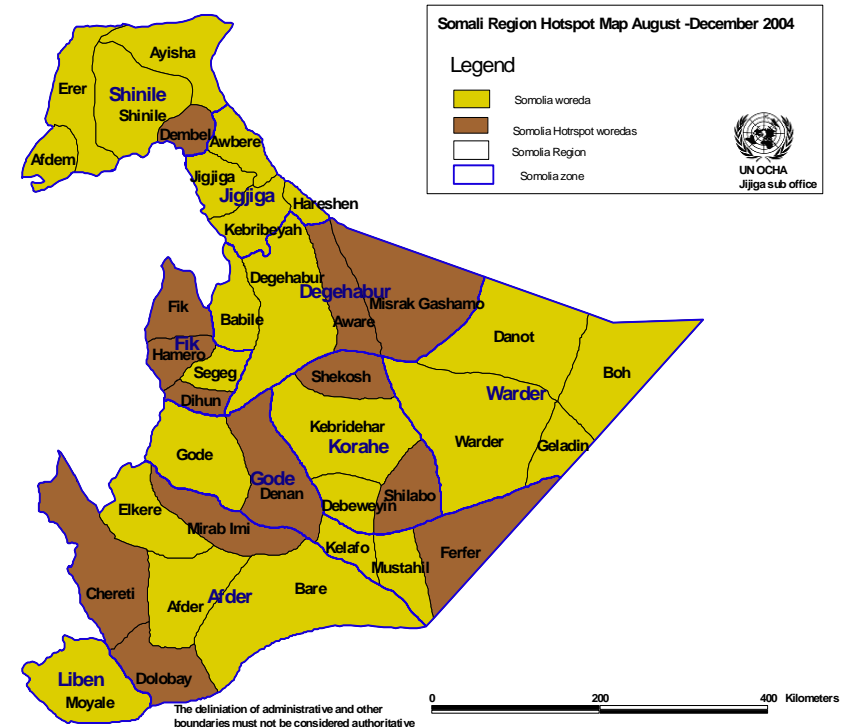
PANEL 2: Human Rights 5:25pm - 6:00pm

“Ethiopia’s Human Rights Record in the Ogaden”
 Presenter: Fowsia Abdelkadir
 Ogaden Human Rights Committee - Canada

“From the Frying Pan into the Fire: The Case of Somali Ogaden Refugees in the Horn of Africa”
 Presenter: Hamse Warfa, Associate Executive Director
 Horn of Africa

“Bridging Human Rights and Peacemaking: The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice”
 Presenter: Joyce Neu, Ph.D., Executive Director
 Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice

MAPS OF THE SOMALI REGION/OGADEN



About the Cosponsors, continued

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego

Through education, research and peacemaking activities, the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) of the University of San Diego's new Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies offers programs that advance scholarship and practice in conflict resolution and human rights.

The Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego draws upon Catholic social teaching that sees peace as inseparable from justice and acts to prevent and resolve conflicts that threaten local, national, and international peace. The IPJ works to improve the lives of those caught in the web of armed conflict and human rights abuses. It is the fundamental philosophy of the IPJ that sustainable peace is possible only through the observance of human rights, the inclusion of civil society, and the incorporation of justice in peacebuilding processes. In collaboration with local and global partners around the world, the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice leads this effort to build peace with justice.

The IPJ holds NGO consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and is a member of the Alliance for Peacebuilding. The IPJ was founded through the generosity of the late Joan B. Kroc, whose legacy lives on in the inspirational institute building, the programs of the IPJ, and the recently inaugurated Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies. For more information of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, go to <http://peace.sandiego.edu>, or call 619-260-7905.

BREAK

6:00pm - 6:10pm

QUESTION & ANSWER

6:10pm - 6:20pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

“U.S. Policies in the Horn of Africa”

6:30pm - 8:00pm

The Honorable James Knight, Ph.D.
Director, Office of East African Affairs
U.S. State Department

RECEPTION

8:00pm - 9:00pm

Speaker biographies

Fowsia Abdulkadir has a Masters degree in social work with a concentration in Canadian Public Policy and a BSW from Carleton University in Canada. Ms. Abdulkadir received a graduate Certificate of Teaching English as Second Language (C.T.E.S.L) and a BA in Economics from Aligarh University in India. She currently works as a Program Evaluation & Performance Measurement Analyst at the Public Health Agency of Canada. Ms. Abdulkadir's research interests include gender-based analysis and gender mainstreaming as well as the role of women in governance, democratization, and conflict resolution in the Horn of Africa. In the national context her research interests are in Canadian social policy analysis, particularly focusing on program and policy evaluation and public sector accountability issues. As an independent researcher, Ms. Abdulkadir has been researching immigrant and refugee women's settlement issues, particularly exploring how these women re-negotiate their social identities in the context of intersecting issues of ethnicity, gender, and race. Ms. Abdulkadir has conducted extensive research in the areas of cross-cultural parenting, human rights, and immigrant and refugee settlement issues. In October 2007, she gave testimony to the United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on African Affairs on the humanitarian tragedy in the Ogaden.

David Gangsei, Ph.D., received his doctorate in clinical psychology from Columbia University. He is licensed as a psychologist in California. Since 1985, he has specialized in providing psychological services to refugees, asylum seekers and torture survivors. Since 2000 he has served as Clinical Director of Survivors of Torture, International in San Diego, where he oversees the development and operation of a program serving health, mental health, case management and asylum support services for torture survivors and their families. Dr. Gangsei has lectured in the United States, Europe and Latin America on topics related to serving torture survivors. He is a contributing author to the Physicians for Human Rights publication "Examining Asylum Seekers: A Health Professional's Guide to Medical and Psychological Evaluations of Torture."

James Knight, Ph.D., a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, is Director of the Office of East African Affairs (AF/E) in the U.S. State Department, which provides political and economic policy support and liaison for Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar,

About the Cosponsors

Ogaden Voice for Peace

The Ogaden Voice for Peace is a grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to raising the level of awareness in the United States and the world community at large about the plight of the people of the Ogaden under the brutal oppression of the Ethiopian government. OVP is an all-volunteer organization, consisting predominantly of Ogaden Somalis residing in the Diaspora. OVP has four *fundamental* and *inseparable* objectives:

1. To expose the massive violations of human rights taking place in the Ogaden and to persuade all governments and organizations concerned with the promotion of democratic principles to exercise their influence to bring this reign of terror to an immediate end.
2. To draw the attention of the U.S. Government and Congress to take an active and principled stand on the Ogaden issue, and support the peaceful settlement of this dispute by bringing all concerned parties to the negotiating table.
3. To promote the unity of all Ogaden Somalis, irrespective of their political preferences, in adherence to the principle of self-determination.
4. To urge the Secretary General of the United Nations to designate a Special Envoy of recognized international standing and experience to visit the Ogaden region and investigate the situation with regard to the observance of human and political rights and to submit a factual report to the UN Security Council.

Ogaden Voice for Peace derives its support from the Ogaden diaspora who believe in peace, democracy, justice, and freedom. To achieve its objectives, the Ogaden Voice for Peace will use all peaceful, moral, and political means within the American and international legal frameworks. For more information on the Ogaden Voice for Peace, go to www.ogadenvoice.org.

Hamse Warfa is the Associate Executive Director for Horn of Africa, one of San Diego's most respected and effective refugee assistance organizations. Mr. Warfa, a former refugee, attended Crawford High School in San Diego and then graduated from San Diego State University. He went on to receive his Master of Science in Organizational Management and leadership. Mr. Warfa has been a dedicated advocate for human rights and is a staunch campaigner against poverty and health disparities. Mr. Warfa has provided numerous trainings and workshops with expertise on culture, diversity, community development and civic activism. As an advocate for refugees and immigrants for the past 10 years, Mr. Warfa is committed to improving the conditions in which refugees live both economically and socially.

Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. Mr. Knight was previously Team Leader of the Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), based in Mosul, Iraq. During his tenure, Ninewa PRT launched provincial initiatives for governance, economic recovery, and the rule of law which were replicated at other Iraq PRTs. These achievements set a new standard for integrated efforts by the Department of State, Department of Justice, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Iraq Transition Assistance Office, and the Multi-National Coalition at the provincial level in Iraq.

Before Iraq, Mr. Knight was Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) for the U.S. Mission to Angola. Previous assignments include DCM for Embassy Praia, Cape Verde; Country Affairs Officer for Ethiopia and Eritrea in the Office of East African Affairs; Political Officer for Embassy Antananarivo, Madagascar; Political, Economic, and Consular Officer for Embassy Banjul, The Gambia; and General Services Officer at Embassy Lagos, Nigeria.

Mr. Knight holds a doctorate in Anthropology from the University of Chicago and undertook extensive research among nomads in the Sahara. Before the Foreign Service he worked as an economic development specialist for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Niger and as a software developer for the private sector. He received the Bronze Star for combat service as an infantry officer in Vietnam. Mr. Knight is married to the former Amelia Rector Bell; they have four children. He speaks French and Portuguese.

Abdi Mohamoud was born in the Ogaden and moved to San Diego as a refugee from Ethiopia in 1982. He attended Crawford High School and then studied Business Administration/Finance at San Diego State University where he obtained his Bachelors of Science. Mr. Mohamoud also holds a Master's degree in Management from the University of Redland's School of Business. He completed a certificate program at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business in their advanced Executive Management program. In 2007, Mr. Mohamoud completed a graduate certificate program at the United States Institute of Peace on preventing violent conflicts. Fluent in Somali and English, Mr. Mohamoud has spent the past ten years in a leadership role within the East African community in San Diego through his work as founder and Executive Director of the nongovernmental organization, Horn of Africa. Through a combination of hard work, skill and determination, Mr. Mohamoud has helped Horn of Africa become one of San Diego's

most respected and effective refugee assistance organizations. In 2004, The San Diego Metropolitan Magazine named Mr. Mohamoud one of San Diego's top 40 under-40 business leaders.

In 2004, Mr. Mohamoud was instrumental in establishing The Ogaden Voice for Peace, an advocacy group that promotes the peaceful settlement of one of Africa's deadliest conflicts in the past half century. Over the past three years, he has been at the forefront of the Diaspora community in bringing the suffering of the region to the attention of the international community, including many members of the U.S. Congress.

Mahamud Ugas Muhumed, a Ph.D. candidate, is a co-founder, researcher and board member for the Ogaden Human Rights Committee. He was the first Regional Minister of Planning and Economic Development of the Ogaden region of Ethiopia from 1993-1995. From 1992-1993, Mr. Muhumed became the Coordinator of the Curriculum Development Program for the Somali region of Ethiopia. From 1987-1991, he was an assistant lecturer of Mathematics, Somali National University, College of Education, Lafole. Mr. Muhumed studied Mathematics for his first degree in the College of Education at Lafole University from 1983-1987. He had a two-year fellowship on Curriculum Development at the University of Rome from 1991-1992. Mr. Muhumed continued his post graduate studies in Management of Organizations at the Ethiopian Management Institute from 1996-1998. He is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in the Management of Non-Profit Organizations at the Open University and a student researcher at the University of Manitoba. Mr. Muhumed is the co-founder of the Ogaden Welfare Society and has worked for many other organizations – national and international – including United Nations' agencies.

Joyce Neu, Ph.D., is Executive Director of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. Dr. Neu is a conflict resolution specialist with experience as a practitioner and scholar in international mediation and negotiation. She has conducted conflict assessments in Albania, Georgia, Latvia, Macedonia, Madagascar and Moldova and helped facilitate talks between parties in conflict in Bosnia, Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mali, and Sudan and Uganda. From 2006-7, Dr. Neu was a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, DC. Prior to her position at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, she worked at The Carter Center in Atlanta where she advised the former President on conflicts in over two dozen countries and accompanied former President and Mrs.

Carter to Bosnia where they obtained a four-month ceasefire in December 1994. She led a Carter Center team working on restoring Sudan – Uganda bilateral relations that culminated in a summit with the two heads of state with President Carter as chief mediator, and a signed peace agreement. In 2000, she was recognized for her work in Africa by the National Peace Foundation with the Peacemaker/ Peacebuilder Award. In 2006, Dr. Neu received the Samuel Weiner Distinguished Visitor award from the University of Manitoba. She has been interviewed on TV and radio and given talks and training in the U.S., Europe, Mexico, and Africa. She has taught at the University of Southern California, Penn State University and Emory University, and is Professor of Practice in the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego. She served as a senior Fulbright scholar in Poland and a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal. Dr. Neu received her Ph.D. and MA in linguistics from the University of Southern California and her BA in French and English from the University of Colorado.

Keif Schleifer is Executive Director of The Empowerment Initiative. She is a veteran of the U.S. military where she worked as an aviation medic and firefighter. As a civilian, her work as a Firefighter/EMT has taken her to disasters in the U.S. and abroad. She provided medical and flood relief in Zambia, fought forest fires in Florida, participated in rescue and recovery at the World Trade Center towers shortly after they collapsed and delivered medical supplies to Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Schleifer's introduction to human rights and social justice came through her association with Dr. Joseph Lowery, dean of the Civil Rights Movement. In his honor, she participates in the 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery to literally walk in his footsteps and to understand and commemorate his efforts of more than forty years to demand voting rights for African Americans. Ms. Schleifer is a co-founder of The Empowerment Initiative, a human rights, social justice, non-violence advocacy organization that facilitates the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable communities and individuals. The organization hosts empowerment symposia across the country and coordinates the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. Ms. Schleifer holds two A.A. degrees in mathematics and chemistry. She has an A.B. from Wellesley College in art and architecture and an M.S. from the Georgia Institute of Technology College of Architecture where she studied architecture and Members Services Council of the Atlanta Coalition of the Performing Arts.