

Advocacy & Empowerment From The Ground Up

Who is an Advocate?



Even people who are not eligible to vote can influence public opinion and policy by expressing their views.



During the Civil Rights era
school children were
frequently arrested for
peaceful acts of defiance
and escorted directly
into the overcrowded jails.



Sometimes, as an advocate, you may feel
as if you are standing alone.

This can be very fearful for many reasons.







Students staged peaceful “sit-ins” to integrate lunch counters.
Their adversaries tried to humiliate them, intimidate them and hurt them.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Six Principles of Non-Violent Social Change

Nonviolence is
a way of life for
courageous people



Nonviolence means
seeking
friendship
& understanding
among those who are
different than you

Nonviolence defeats
injustice
not
people

Nonviolence means
the entire universe
embraces
justice



Nonviolence holds that suffering
can
educate & transform
people and societies



Nonviolence
chooses
loving
solutions
not hateful ones

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Six Steps to Non-Violent Social Change

Gather Information

Educate Others

Remain Committed

Peacefully Negotiate

Take Action Peacefully

Reconcile



Fowsia Abdulkadir

Giving testimony at Congressional Hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee



Guled Kassim

Candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates

8 June 2007
(via email)

Honorable Secretary of State
Today, in DC, Congressman
Member, European Parliament
has been at the forefront of
speakers at the Joint Summit

The Summit will address
Sustained Human Rights

Attached is a letter of advocacy organization,
and the Coalition for Human Rights

The letter addresses a few of
endangering a few of
disastrous situations,
we have from these

We would like you to
and continue to
support you in your
and the world
human rights.

Peace and good
will

Keif Schleifer
Executive Director
The Empowerment
Human Rights,
Empowerment

The Em



The Empowerment Initiative
Human Rights, Social Justice, Non-Violence Advocacy

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LETTER OF APPRECIATION FOR THE
OGADEN YOUTH NETWORK

Young leaders of today and tomorrow, we congratulate you on your weekend's *Annual Ogaden Youth Conference* and how the *Ogaden Youth Network* embodies the fruits of your labor.

Over the past few years, your efforts in advocating for the Ogaden region and its people. We especially want to commend you for your clearly demonstrated desire to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Your efforts, by the people of the Ogaden. Your efforts

You have assembled a number of respected individuals around the world to discuss the terrible, sanctioned and encouraged questions and answers and encourage sustainable results for a peaceful resolution. Your efforts, by the people of the Ogaden. Your efforts

The Ogaden needs our help now. At the recent conference, "Successive Ethiopian governments have not been able to resolve the Ogaden issue." As with any conflict, the Ogaden region is in a state of devastation and gut-wrenching suffering. We need your support and services to the Ogaden region. We need your help and clear for the way forward.

You are our hope for tomorrow. We have every confidence in your commitment to create a peaceful and equitable and accessible development.

With all respect, we

Keif Schleifer
Executive Director
The Empowerment
Human Rights,
Empowerment

The Empowerment Initiative

Human Rights, Social Justice, Non-Violence Advocacy

LETTER OF CONCERN TO U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
REGARDING MISUSE & ABUSE OF U.S. MILITARY SUPPORT
(via email and facsimile)

19 November 2007

Honorable Senator Carl Levin, Senator John McCain, and members of the US Senate Committee on Armed Services:

As a veteran of the US military, I am very concerned that Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia is exploiting personnel trained by the U.S. military and misusing U.S. supplied military armaments to make advances against defenseless civilians within his own borders.

New reports are emerging today from the BBC News, Reuters and the AFP that Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has stepped-up his militaristic assaults in the Somali Region of Ethiopia (the Ogaden) and is employing the indiscriminate and highly destructive tactic of "carpet bombing" to "flush out rebel forces." What he is doing in reality, however, is annihilating defenseless civilians, their livestock and livelihood and their villages, wells, granaries and shelters in a region of the country that, incidentally, is rich in subterranean resources.

Indiscriminate killing and collective punishment is not a new issue with the Meles regime; however, what is new is the ferocity and extensive nature of these continued assaults on pastoral and nomadic citizens.

Bear in mind that it is quite remarkable that the general public can even learn of these militaristic maneuvers considering that Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has banned and expelled the free press, humanitarian aid agencies, and every other outside organization from entering the majority of the Somali Region of Ethiopia (the Ogaden). What is eminently clear is that he does not want the world to know of the atrocities he is responsible for that are taking place there.

I am asking for your verification and assurances, as members of the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services, that our military trainers have in no way been complicit to these current actions of the Ethiopian military and that the weaponry and ordnance being used against defenseless civilians are not, and have not, been supplied by the United States.

Thank you for your consideration, I await your response.

Keif Schleifer
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Are You an Advocate?

Members of the San Diego Community

2006 *Ogaden Voice for Peace* Conference



Working for Reconciliation

Educating Others

Committed

Peaceful Action

Embraces Justice

Gathering Information

Peacefully Negotiating

Fostering Friendships & Understanding outside of the Community

Important Points about Advocacy

1. You have taken the initiative to be an advocate.
2. Now, you have a connection with each of us here and we are a network of allies. You are not standing alone.
3. You are an expert on the subject when you are talk about your own experiences and perspective.
4. Policy makers want to hear your perspective.
5. Your personal experience sheds light on the issue.

“Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



You and I are Advocates... and the voiceless people of the Ogaden are counting on us to speak up.





far haday ku bugto gacanta loo ma jaro

We are in this all together. We must find a way to work together.

We have similar needs, similar fears and similar goals.

