

Somalia at Crossroads: Foreign Intervention, Humanitarian Crisis and Aspirations for Statehood

January 27-28, 2012

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Preamble

It is now more than two decades since the fall of Somalia's last national government in 1991. Over sixteen international and national reconciliation conferences have been held in the Middle-East and in Africa and all have unfortunately failed to meet local and international expectations to rebuild national institutions and resuscitate the Somali state. On the other hand, warlordism, clanism, religious extremism, piracy and other societal ills continue to plague the nation and are sources of conflict and instability throughout the country claiming the lives of too many innocent people. Additionally, cyclical Horn of Africa droughts and famine continue to impact the lives of tens of thousands of Somalis and their livelihoods without any coping governmental, non-governmental and communal structures in place. As a consequence thousands remain in refugee camps outside the country, while hundreds of thousands of internally displaced peoples (IDPs) continue to roam inside the country searching for food, shelter and security.

The Somali Diaspora continues to play a significant role financially in contributing over 1.7 billion dollars annually to assist their kin-folk back home, even though remittance services in the U.S. face enormous bureaucratic and legal challenges to remain in business. This is mainly due to some of the remitted funds to Somalia getting into the hands of extremist groups. The mandate to end transitional governance in Somalia is also facing many obstacles and is unlikely to produce a permanent state representing the Somali people by August 2012 as is anticipated by United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS). Meanwhile, Kenyan and Ethiopian forces at the behest of the TFG are controlling territories in the south and west of the country as African Union (AU) troops from Uganda, Burundi and Djibouti supporting TFG forces push Al-Shabab forces from territories surrounding Mogadishu.

The theme of the conference is *Somalia at Crossroads: Foreign Intervention, Humanitarian Crisis and Aspirations for Statehood*. It focuses to bring stakeholders, scholars, academics and practitioners together to contribute to the Somali discourse and the quest for peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. Conference speakers will delve deep into various issues including impact of U.S. Dual Track Policy, potential for balkanization, foreign intervention, and humanitarian crisis, extremism, remittances and piracy among others.

Conference organizers are grateful of the support from the Ohio State University and other sponsoring institutions such as Ohio University, Columbus Council on World Affairs and others listed in the program.

Conference organizing committee:

Jibril Mohamed; Laura Joseph; Abdikarim Gole; Abukar Osman and Dr. Abdinur Mohamud

Conference Program

Date/Venue Friday January 27, 2012	Activity	Venue
Morning Schedule		
08:00-09:00	Registration/Coffee	Registration Desk
09:00-09:10	Welcoming Remarks Laura Joseph , Assistant Director, Center for African Studies	
09:10-09:30	Introduction of the Mayor- Abdikhayr Sofe Welcome Remarks: Mayor Michael Coleman	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
09:30-09:35	Opening Statement and Introduction of the Speaker- Dr. Abdinur Mohamud	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
09:35-10:30	Foreign Intervention, Humanitarian Crisis and the Quest for Political Stability in Somalia- Prof. Ahmad I. Samatar , Dean, Macalester College	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
10:30-10:45	Discussion and Questions	
10:15-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:45-11:45	U.S. Engagement in Somalia: Dual Track Policy Aims and Implications Ahmed I Samatar , Dean Macalester College Michael Weinstein , Purdue University Jibril Mohamed , SomaliCan Facilitator: Sadia Ali Aden	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
11:45-12:00	Discussion and Questions	
12:00-2:00PM	Lunch and Friday Prayer Break	
PM Concurrent Sessions	Afternoon Schedule	PM

02:00-03:00 Session A	The Role of the Diaspora in the Somali Peace Process Prof. Yusuf Ahmed Nur , Indiana U. Mohamed Abdi , DC Government Warsame Jirde Warsame , Hiiraan Online Facilitator: Dr. Ali Faqi	Denney Hall 0214
02:00-03:00 Session B	Panel I: The Somali Roadmap: A tool for Statehood or Death-knell for Disintegration? Prof. Michael Weinstein , Purdue University Fowsia Abdulkadir , Public Policy Analyst Dr. Abdurahman Abdullahi Baadiyow , Chairman Mogadishu University Facilitator: Laura Joseph	Denney Hall 0253
02:00-03:00 Session C	Panel II: The Role of Youth in the Somali Conflict Deanna Wilkinson -The role of Identity Crisis and Marginalization in youth Muse Farah , Horn of Africa Rescue Committee; Neglected Youth and Prevention of Radicalization Mohamoud Abdulle , Diaspora Factor in the Somali Saga: the role of diaspora groups in the Somali conflict, development and peace-building Abukar Yahye Saney : Opportunities for Youth Development and Programs in the U.S. Facilitator: Dayib Mohamud Sheikh	Denney Hall 0250
03:00-03:15	Discussion and Questions	
03:15-03:30	Afternoon Prayer Break	
03:30-04:30 Session A	Panel III: Community Development During Economic Hardships: The Somali Diaspora, Transnational Remittance, Business and Commerce Jibril Mohamed , SomaliCan Hon. Carlton Weddington , Ohio State Rep. Abdullahi Mohmed Nur , Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services Hassan Omar , President Somali community Association of Ohio Facilitator: Dr. Ali Faqi	Denney Hall 0214
03:30-04:30 Session B	Panel IV: Education and Community Development issues in the Diaspora Abdikhayr Soofe , The New Americans	Denney Hall

	<p>Initiative, Columbus Mayor's Office</p> <p>Awil Ibrahim, Columbus Public Schools: Somali Graduation Challenges at the High Schools: Strategies for Success</p> <p>Mohamed Moallim Columbus Public Schools: Improving Academic Success of Somali Students</p> <p>Facilitator: Ibrahim Sheikh Ahmed</p>	0250
<p>03:30-04:30</p> <p>Session C</p>	<p>Panel V: Warlordism, Extremism, Piracy and Overcoming Obstacles to a Stable Somali State</p> <p>Dr. Ali Said Faqi, Independent Scholar</p> <p>Dayib Mohamud Sheikh, Independent Scholar</p> <p>Prof. Liban Egal, George Mason University: A Bottom-Up Approach for Rebuilding the State</p> <p>Facilitator: Fowsia Abdulkadir</p>	<p>Denney Hall</p> <p>0253</p>
04:30-04:45	Discussion and Questions	
<p>04:45-05:45</p> <p>Session A</p>	<p>Panel VI. Research and Development of Somali Language and Culture</p> <p>Abdullahi A. Ahmed, Library of Congress: Somali Collections at the Library of Congress</p> <p>Abdikarim Gole, OSU: Somali Language and Culture programs in Ohio and other U.S. Higher Education Institutions</p> <p>Sahid Ali, Columbus Public Schools: Published Education Materials in Somali in U.S. Schools</p> <p>Facilitator: Awil Ibrahim</p>	<p>Denney Hall</p> <p>0250</p>
<p>04:45-05:45</p> <p>Session B</p>	<p>Panel VII: The Role of Women in the Somali Peace Process</p> <p>Sadia Ali Aden, Activist</p> <p>Fowsia Abdulkadir, Public Policy Analyst</p> <p>Khadra Mohamed, Center for Women's Advancement</p> <p>Facilitator: Laura Joseph</p>	<p>Denney Hall</p> <p>0253</p>
<p>04:45-05:45</p> <p>Session C</p>	<p>Panel VIII: Community Health Issues in The Diaspora: Awareness and Accessibility of Services</p> <p>Dr. Khadija Ali Mohamed, University of Rome</p> <p>Hiba Noor, Columbus Public Health</p> <p>Jibril Mohamed, SomaliCan</p> <p>Facilitator: Abukar Y. Saney</p>	<p>Denney Hall</p> <p>0214</p>

05:45-06:00	Discussion and Questions	
06:00-06:30	Break and Evening Prayer	
07:00-08:30PM	U.S. Involvement in Somalia: A Policy of Tacit Engagement or Disengagement? Deborah Malac , Director, East African Affairs-State Department; and Abukar Arman , Somalia Envoy to the United States Moderator: Jibril Mohamed	Mershon Center
Saturday January 28 AM	Saturday January 28 AM	Saturday January 28 AM
09:00-09:15	Registration/Coffee	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
09:15-09:30	Welcome and Introduction- Jibril Mohamed	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
09:30-10:30	The Balkanization of Somalia Prof. Michael Weinstein - Purdue University Facilitator: Prof. Leslie Moore, OSU	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
10:30-10:45	Discussion and Questions	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
10:45-11:30	Dr. Kadigia Ali Mohamud , University of Rome Territorial Integrity, Islamism and Clan-based Political representation Ms. Khadra Mohamed , Center for women's Advancement Facilitator: Mohamed Abdi	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
11:30-11:45	Discussion and Questions	
11:45-12:00PM	Break	
12:00-01:00	<u>Panel IX</u> : Post TFG Somalia: Political Parties and National Grassroots Movements as Clan Alternatives: Planting the Seeds for Sustainable Social and Political Institutions Panelists: Prof. Ahmad Samatar, Dr. Abdurahman Baadiyow, Fowsia Abdulkadir, & Mohamed Abdi Moderator: Dr. Abdinur Mohamud	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
01:00-01:15PM	Discussion and Questions	
01:15-02:00	Lunch and Prayer Break	
PM	Afternoon Schedule	PM
02:00-03:00	Islamic Movements in Somalia: History and Role in Rebuilding the Somali State Dr. Abdurahman Abdullahi Baadiyow , Chair,	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room

	Mogadishu University Prof. Yusuf Ahmed Nur , Indiana U. Moderator: Prof. Ahmad Samatar	0180
03:00-03:15	Discussion and Questions	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
03:15-04:15	<u>Panel X</u> : Political Instability, Humanitarian Crisis and Famine Sadia Ali Aden , Activist: The Politics of Famine in the Horn Dr. Ali Said Faqi : Sources of Political Instability in the Horn of Africa Ibrahim Sheikh Ahmed : The Turkey Factor in the Somali Humanitarian Crisis Suldan Guled : Famine in the Horn: Economic Vulnerability and Resilience Facilitator: Matthew Petit- State Department	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room 0180
04:15-04:30	Discussion and Questions/Prayer Break	
05:00-05:30	Review of Draft Conference Communique	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room
05:30-06:00	Discussion and Questions	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room
06:00	Release of Draft Communique/ Adjournment	Hagerty Hall- Conference Room

Conference Sponsors: Center for African Studies, Ohio State University; Center for African Studies, Ohio University; Columbus Council on World Affairs; SomaliCan; Department of African American and African Studies, OSU; Mershon Center for International Security Studies, OSU; Somali Student Association, OSU; Somali Education Association; Somali Language Program at OSU; Safari Travel Agency, Hiiraan Online and Markacaddey Media.