

Peace and Reconciliation in the Horn of Africa

Together for a Peaceful Future



Your Participation will make a Difference!

Why?

This is a seminar that is held for the second time, and as a continuation and a follow up of the good response we received from the participants of the first one. Our first seminar was held in November 2006, with the theme “Peace and Reconciliation in the Horn of Africa – Your Participation will make a Difference”.

We, the organizers of this event aim to inspire others so that we together can take initiatives to organize different activities in different places that contribute in bringing together our peoples in the Horn of Africa and that will, in its turn, lead to a global network for peace and reconciliation.

Our Vision

We want to have a new Horn of Africa! Is that possible? This is a question that challenges all of us. It is a challenge for us, Swedish citizens who come originally from the Horn of Africa, and for those who are still living in the region. We think it is our common duty to work in order to change the prevailing image, and show that there is a will among us to live together in peace and harmony. Our vision is that this will lead to a situation that allows us to start organizing ourselves on the grassroots’ level wherever we are and start laying a ground for our common endeavors to establish movements for peace, reconciliation and democracy. Our two days’ seminar, the 9th and 10th of November 2007, aims:

- To promote peace and reconciliation in the HoA.
- To strengthen the bonds between the peoples of the HoA socially and culturally; and to increase our knowledge about the Nordic countries’ culture of peace.

- To engage the youth to work for peace, and encourage them to study and make research on the region of the HoA.
- To establish a forum for dialogue between the peoples and the political actors.
- To shed light on the role of women in peace process, and to increase equality between men and women in the HoA.

Our Objectives

- To arrange a cultural activity with music etc...
- To arrange two days’ seminar on peace, democracy and human rights with special focus on the youth and women’s role in the peace process in the HoA.
- To finally put together a common report about the situation in the HoA concerning peace on reconciliation.

Activities

A. Cultural Activities

In cooperation between our three organizations we will arrange a cultural event with music from the different HoA countries.

B. Seminar days

Two seminar days will be organized with different invited lecturers from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan with focus on the issues of peace and reconciliation and to exchange experiences. This will hopefully enable the peoples of the HoA to know each other's political, social and cultural diversity, and to work hand in hand for a common peaceful future.

Project Organizers

This project on peace and reconciliation in the HoA is owned by the below mentioned three organizations:

- Eritrean League for Reconciliation
- Swedish Somali Institute
- Swedish Ethiopian Peace Movement

These three organizations succeeded in forming a common project group that is responsible for the planning, accomplishing and evaluating the project.

Target Audience

Selected guests from the HoA countries, the public from these countries, Swedish peace organizations, representatives of African organizations, youth and women organizations, representatives from SIDA and other frame organizations, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and other governmental authorities, the media.



PROGRAM

Together for a Peaceful Future

Cultural Festival in Kista Träff

9–10 November 2007

FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER

17.30 **Reception and music**

18.00 **Welcome Speech**

18.15 **Folke Bernadotte Academy – To Strengthen and Develop Peace Work**

18.45 **Mai Palmberg: How Negative Images of Other People are Created?**
– An Introduction on the Image of Africa and of the “Enemy”

20.15 **Music with the legendary Eritrean Artist Othman Abdurrahim**

21.00 **Cocclusion**

SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER

09.00 **Registration and Coffee**

10.00 **Introduction Speech: We want to have a new Horn of Africa!**

10.30 **Lecture 1: The Vision of the Youth of a Sustainable Peace in the HoA**
Folke Bernadotte Academy – To Strengthen and Develop Peace Work

11.30 **Lecture 2: Mr. Abdurahman Sayed**
“A Vision of a Sustainable Peace in the Horn of Africa
– A New Generation’s Perspective”

12.30 **Lunch in Kista Galleria**

14.00 **Lecture 3: Dr. Ahmed Hosh Khayre**
“Human Rights Crisis in Somalia – the Role of Somali Civil Society”

15.30 **Lecture 4: Tarekegn Adebo, Ph. D**
“Peaceful Means of Conflict Handling and Building Friendly
Cross Border Relations”

16.30 **Coffee Time**

16.45 **Lecture 5: Mohamed Abusabib, Ph. D**
“Historical and Cultural Roots of the Sudanese Political Crisis”

17.45 **Lecture 6: Saif Omar,**
“Civil Society Organizations’ Role in Peace and Stability in the HoA”

18.45 **Workshop 1: Youth Visions of Peace – Is Change Possible?**
Workshop 2: Women’s Role in the Work for Peace in the HoA

20.15 **Presentation of the workshops’ results**

20.45 **Conclusion**

Ms. Mai Palmberg, Researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute “Cultural Images in and of Africa”.

Mr. Abdurahman Sayed, Researcher on federal systems of governance, a political activist. He calls for an active political role of civic-society groups, based in London.

Dr. Ahmed Hosh Khayre, Human Rights activist, based in London.

Dr. Mohamed Abusabib, Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University. Fields of specialization art, aesthetics and cultural studies.

Dr. Tarekegn Adebo, Ph. D. Research and Coordinator in Life and Peace Institute – Uppsala, Sweden.

Mr. Saif Omar has actively worked with the civil society organizations in Sudan, Eritrea, Tanzania, Somalia and Sweden.



Notification

You can notify your attendance until **November 5, 2007**, through mailing to: afrikashorn2007@gmail.com or mailing or calling one of the project leaders

Project Leaders

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