

Somalia: Creating Space for Fresh Approaches to Peacebuilding

Tuesday, March 13th from 9:30am to 11:30am

Kenney Auditorium
Johns Hopkins SAIS
1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington D.C. 20036

Forum Details:

Somalia has been without an effective central government since President Siad Barre was overthrown in 1991. Years of fighting between rival warlords and an inability to deal with famine and disease have led to the deaths of up to one million people. Reconciliation and lasting stability in a country fraught with competing militias and divided loyalties remains elusive.

Policymakers inside and outside of Somalia often make decisions based primarily on global and regional security concerns while overlooking local complexities and the potential for conflict transformation. Speakers will discuss the impact of current policies isolating blacklisted groups in Somalia and propose alternative perspectives that could encourage the design of an inclusive peace process in Somalia. Discussion will draw on John Paul Lederach's article, "Addressing Terrorism: A Theory of Change Approach," in the recent report, "Somalia: Creating Space for Fresh Approaches to Peacebuilding."

Speakers:

Michele Cesari

Resident Representative for the Life & Peace Institute, Nairobi, Kenya

Shamsia W. Ramadhan

Programmes and Communications Advisor, Life & Peace Institute, Nairobi, Kenya

Laura Weis

Ph.D. candidate at the Kroc Institute/Notre Dame, contributing author to Somalia: Creating Space for Fresh Approaches to Peacebuilding

Moderator:

David Cortright

Director of Policy Studies
Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

Bios:

Michele Cesari

Michele Cesari is Resident Representative for the Life & Peace Institute in Nairobi, where he leads the Somalia Programme and the Peacebuilding with Regional Partners Programme. He has previously worked for Caritas in the

Western Balkans and has offered consultancy services on learning design for people in conflict. He holds a Bachelor of Law degree and is currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration.

Shamsia W. Ramadhan

Shamsia is the Programmes and Communications Advisor for Life and Peace Institute, Nairobi, and editor of the Horn of Africa Bulletin. As a peace practitioner she has worked with institutions engaged in social and public policy in Kenya. She has published in the area of peacebuilding, religious peacebuilding and inter-religious dialogue. She holds a master's degree in peace studies from the University of Notre Dame and bachelor's degree in Social Ministry in Mission from Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

Laura Weis

Laura is a Ph.D. candidate in history and peace studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame. She studies the relationship between culture and foreign policy, particularly how ethnic and religious perceptions influence decision-making. She previously worked with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Washington, D.C., and helped to survey post-conflict peacebuilding projects in Indonesia with the Aceh Peace Resource Center.

David Cortright

David is the Director of Policy Studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and Chair of the Board of the Fourth Freedom Forum. A peace and disarmament activist since the Vietnam War, Cortright has authored or edited 19 books on nonviolent social change, nuclear disarmament, multilateral sanctions and non-militarized responses to terrorism, including *Uniting Against Terror: Cooperative Nonmilitary Responses to the Global Terrorist Threat* and most recently *Ending Obama's War*. He is the editor of *Peace Policy*, the Kroc Institute's online journal.

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