

CONTRIBUTORS

Awa Abdi is currently completing her Ph.D. in the Department of Sociology at the University of Sussex. Her current research examines the effect of forced displacement on gender relations. In addition to working as a consultant for CARE Canada and the U.K. Home Office, among others, Ms. Abdi has published both refereed and non-refereed articles. Her latest article, "Refugees, Gender Based Violence and Resistance: A Case Study of Somali Women in Kenyan Camps," will be in an edited book published by Ashgate Press. A version of the article in this volume was previously published in *Refuge: Canadian Periodical on Refugee Issues*, Volume 22, no. 2 (2004).

Aden Omar Mohamed is a trained mechanic. For the last ten years, he has been living in Germany, where he organizes Somali social events and religious festivals. At these occasions, he often recites his poems. Currently, he is Chairman and Deputy Chairman of two different Somali volunteer organizations.

Abdirashid Adan Mohamud holds an M.A. in Islamic Studies and Arabic Literature and Language. He has taught Arabic language, literature, and law at private schools in India, Malaysia, and South Africa. While in Cape Town, he also worked as a research assistant and participated in editing *Revival and Reform in Islam: A Study on Islamic Fundamentalism*, by Fazlur Rahman. In 2000, he participated in the Islamic Law Africa Project, Centre for Contemporary Islam, University of Cape Town, and did a presentation on "Muslim Personal Law in Modern Somalia." He now lives in Germany, where he has organized several volunteer educational programs, working in close cooperation with Somali community organizations. Currently, he works as a freelance author for Arabic at one of the leading educational publishing houses in Germany.

Abdi Ismail Samatar, Professor of Geography and Global Studies, University of Minnesota, is the author of several books and numerous articles on the state, African development, and Somalia. He is currently working on a two-volume collaborative project on leaders and democracy in Africa. He is a founding member of the National Civic Forum and is presently a member of its Board of Directors.

Ahmed I. Samatar, James Wallace Professor and Dean of International Studies and Programming at Macalester College, is the Editor-in-Chief of *Bildhaan: An International Journal of Somali Studies*. He is the author/editor of five books and numerous articles. His most recent work is *The State in Africa: Reconsiderations*. His current and collaborative research, projected to result in two volumes, is devoted to leadership and governance in Africa. He is the current Chairman of the Board of Directors of the newly constituted National Civic Forum.

Mahamud M. Yahya is a Somali who currently lives in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He received his B.Com. from Zaqaziq University, Egypt (1968) and his MBA and Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles (1984). Between 1968 and 1979, he assumed different positions in the Government of Somalia, including Chief Accountant, Somaltex Textile Factory (Balad); Director of Finance, Water Development Agency; Deputy Mayor of Mogadishu; and Lecturer at the Somali Institute of Development Administration and Management (SIDAM). During the years 1985–2004, Dr. Yahya worked in a number of positions at the Islamic Development Bank, from which he formally retired in 2004. He is a Consultant on Operations Evaluation for IDB at present.

Raised with a nomadic upbringing, **Ahmed Yusuf** read his first book here in the United States at the age of twenty-five. A passion for writing was infused in him by Fred Pfeil, an English professor and his mentor at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Yusuf is a regular contributor of Somali language short stories to www.radiodaljir.com. He is a social worker at the Community University Health Care Center, which is affiliated with the University of Minnesota and serves the disadvantaged. He has an interdisciplinary B.S. degree from Trinity College in Creative Writing and Psychology.