

CONTRIBUTORS

Charles Geshekte is an Emeritus Professor of History at California State University, Chico. He was a Founder of the Somali Studies International Association (1978), co-directed the 1st International Congress of Somali Studies in Mogadishu (1980), and co-edited The Proceedings of that conference. In 1985, he produced a documentary for Public Broadcasting System in the USA, entitled, *The Parching Winds of Somalia*. He has written about Somali humor, filmmaking in Somalia, Ioan Lewis as a historian, and political economy during the 1970s under Siyaad Barre. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Djibouti (1991).

Abdi Ismail Samatar is a Professor of Geography, Environment, & Society at the University of Minnesota. He is a Research Fellow at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Mogadishu University and Kismayo University. His most recent book is *Africa's First Democrats: Somalia's Aden A. Osman and Abdirazak H. Hussein*. The title of his forthcoming volume is *Africa's Merchants of Misery*.

Bashir Sheikh Omer Goth is an accomplished poet, a writer on political and cultural issues, and an advocate of community development. Among its notable features, his work chastises the dehumanizing social, cultural, political, and economic conditions of Africa in general and Somalia in particular. A promoter of women's causes and the author of romantic lyrics as well, Goth wrote his first play when he was in the seventh grade. The play was performed at the intermediate and high schools, and the military camp in the town of Sheikh, where he was a boarding school student at the time. His first widely known poem is "Jabhad iyo Dagaalkii," which he contributed to the Deelee chain in 1979. Ten years later, Goth himself started the Xaamiim chain in which many poets participated and which became widely popular in Somalia, Djibouti, and among Somalis in the diaspora. In 1997, Goth wrote "Baabulow libaax," a dramatic satire about the presidential elections in the then breakaway Somaliland. Several of Goth's English articles have been translated into French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and Hebrew.

Contributors

Helmi Ben Meriem holds the doctorate in English Literature from the University of Sousse, Tunisia. He is a specialist in Somali literature.

Abdinur Sheikh Mohamed Mohamud, Ph.D., is a senior educational consultant in the Horn of Africa. He is a former Minister of Education and Culture for Somalia in 2010-2011.

Anne Speckhard is Director of the International Centre for the Study of Violent Extremism and heads the *Breaking of ISIS Brand Counter Narrative Project*.

Molly Ellenberg is a research fellow at ICSVE and performed the data analysis for the project.

Mohamed Ahmed hosted the two focus groups while serving as a research fellow at ICSVE.

Georgi Kapchits is a graduate of Moscow State University and a serving member of the international editorial board of *Bildhaan*. He is a world-renowned expert on Somali syntax. He has lectured on Somali language and folklore at Moscow Institute of International Relations, Humboldt University, Free University of Berlin, and numerous other institutions. Kapchits' numerous publications include *Somali Folktales: The Language of African Folklore*, *War and Peace in Somali Oral Tradition*, and *Four Hyenas*.

Lyubov Ivanova is a historian at the Institute of World History, Center for African Studies, The Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow.

Zainab M. Hassan has earned a B.S. degree in Environmental Health from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia and a Masters of Public Affairs (MPA) for the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. An alumna of the James P. Shannon Leadership Institute program, she was awarded a number of fellowships, including the Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship and the Otto Bremer Foundation Fellowship on Philanthropy and Human Rights. Currently, Zainab is engaged in gender equity and social inclusion, peace-building, and social and restorative justice.