CONTRIBUTORS

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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 “Jabhid iyo Dagaalkii,” which he contributed to the Deeleey 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.
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