

Famine and Global Food Security

Panel Discussion

January 29, 1:00 p.m.

The Basilica of Saint Mary, Teresa of Calcutta Hall

Join the Global Stewardship Committee and the Basilica Voices for Justice Team for a panel discussion on food justice, focusing on the current food crisis in the Horn of Africa. Learn about food production and distribution, political roadblocks, and local community involvement, and see a documentary by the “Under-Told Stories Project” a partnership of Saint Mary’s University and PBS NewsHour. Discover ways to get involved and make a difference.

Panel members who will lead the presentation:

- Said Sheik-Abdi, American Refugee Committee
- Professor Abdi Samatar, University of Minnesota
- Julián Lazalde, Catholic Relief Services



Ahado, a Somali refugee at one of several refugee camps in Dadaab, Kenya. Following a severe drought, many families faced starvation and left Somalia on foot. Thousands of refugees are flooding into Dadaab every week.

Photo by Laura Sheahan of Catholic Relief Services.

The Basilica of Saint Mary
Teresa of Calcutta Hall, Lower Level of Church
Downtown Minneapolis on Hennepin Avenue between 16th and 17th

See reverse side for detailed information on panel members

**THE BASILICA
OF SAINT MARY**



Panel speakers, who have expert knowledge in the Horn of Africa, are as follows:

Said Sheik-Abdi

Said Sheik-Abdi serves as a program manager at the American Refugee Committee (ARC), where he helps manage the I AM A STAR campaign, an innovative grassroots platform which brings together members of the Somali Diaspora community and others worldwide to take action in Somalia. Said helped form the Somali Advisory Council which is helping ARC to build a first-of-its-kind program where the Somali Diaspora and the American Refugee Committee work together to strengthen communities here in Minnesota while addressing the humanitarian crisis in Somalia.

Previously, Said was a stringer for Voice of America Somali Service, where he covered news and events about Somali Americans in Minnesota. He also worked with international news organizations in Somalia.

Said received a B.S. in agriculture from CCS Haryana Agricultural University in Hisar, India, an M.S. in Agronomy from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, and a Mini-MBA for non-profit organizations from the University of St. Thomas.

Abdi Samatar

Abdi Samatar, an East African native, is a professor of geography at the University of Minnesota. He received his B.A. at University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, a M.C.R.P. in Urban/Regional Planning at Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. A faculty member since 1992, he studies the political and economic struggles of Third-World countries, particularly in Somalia and Ethiopia. His research has focused on democratic leadership, public institutions and development in East and South Africa. Currently, this research encompasses topics such as development, environment, Islam, social capital and ethnicity in the Horn of Africa.

Professor Samatar has a wide array of experience in Africa. He was a Fulbright scholar in Ethiopia. In Botswana he did field work on governments and institutions, and in South Africa where he spent two years in the immediate aftermath of apartheid. He is a widely published author addressing the social, political, and economic infrastructure in Somalia.

He believes Minnesota to be “one the most open states in the U.S.” That openness could account in part for the rapid growth of the local Somali community, the largest in the nation. With all of his other commitments, Professor Samatar, who is proficient in Somali and Arabic, finds time to be an ad hoc adviser to some of the “close to 200” Somali students on campus at the University of Minnesota.

Julián Lazalde

Julián Lazalde currently serves as a Program and Advocacy Officer with the Midwest Regional office of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), where he began in February 2010. His work includes promoting and organizing participation in CRS programs and advocacy initiatives with an emphasis on building relationships and engaging the Latino Catholic community in global solidarity efforts.

Prior to his work at Catholic Relief Services, Julián served for five years as a community organizer in the Pilsen, Little Village and Back of the Yards communities of Chicago. During that time, he engaged and challenged community residents to build and strengthen the skills necessary to actively engage their values and faith in the public arena.

Julián’s key relationships in the Midwest region are with each of the following dioceses:

Minneapolis/Saint Paul, Saint Cloud, and Duluth in Minnesota; Saginaw, Kalamazoo, Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Marquette in Michigan; Green Bay and Superior in Wisconsin; Lafayette and Indianapolis in Indiana; and Hispanic outreach in Chicago, Illinois.