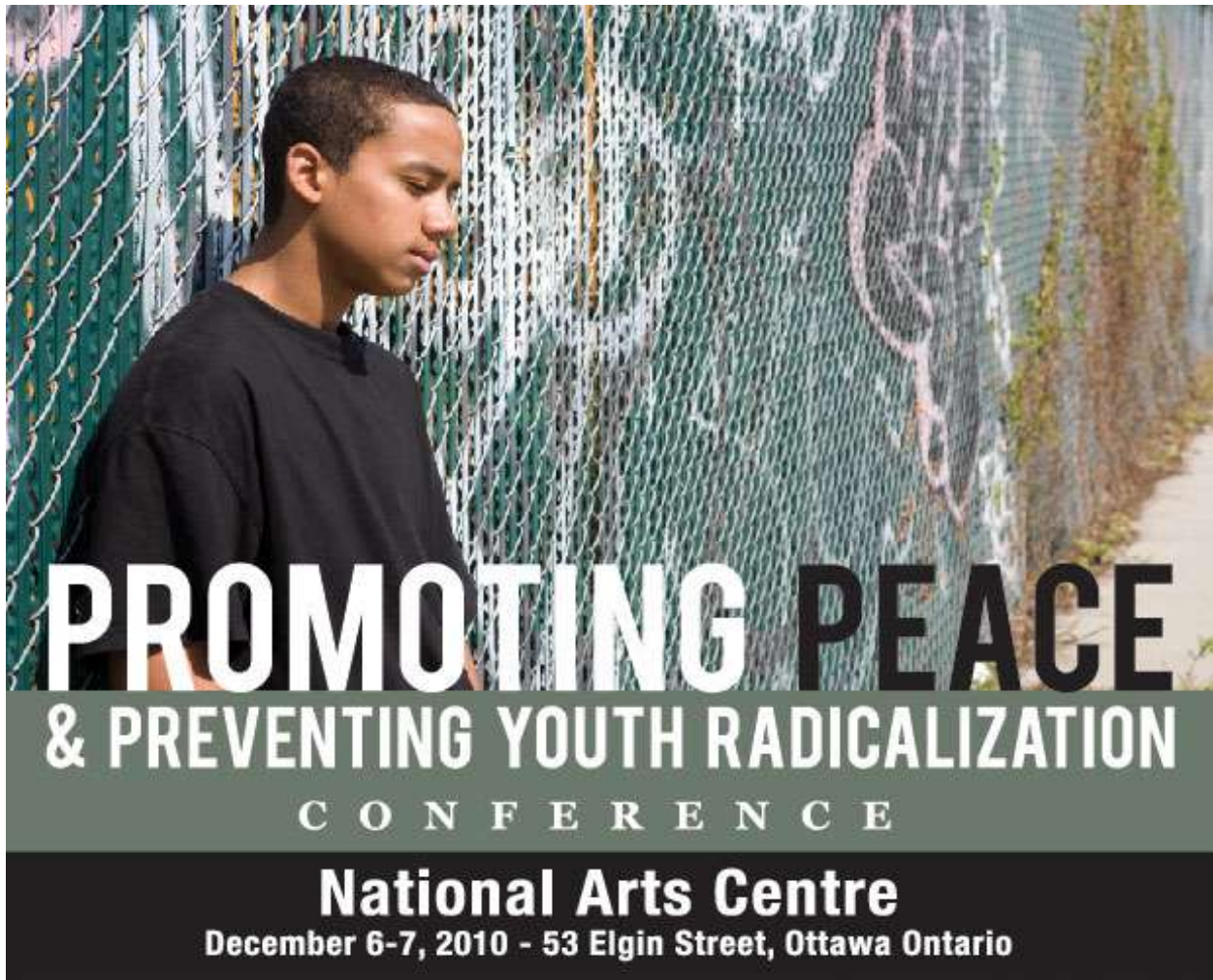


PROMOTING PEACE

PREVENTING YOUTH RADICALIZATION CONFERENCE

National Arts Centre December 6-7, 2010 - 53 Elgin Street, Ottawa Ontario



PROMOTING PEACE & PREVENTING YOUTH RADICALIZATION CONFERENCE

National Arts Centre
December 6-7, 2010 - 53 Elgin Street, Ottawa Ontario

CONFERENCE REPORT

SPONSORS:



PROMOTING PEACE

PREVENTING YOUTH RADICALIZATION CONFERENCE

National Arts Centre December 6-7, 2010 - 53 Elgin Street, Ottawa Ontario

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CANADIAN FRIENDS OF SOMALIA PROFILE

The Canadian Friends of Somalia is an organization whose aim is to serve Somali-Canadians to establish a new life that is founded on the dignity of economic self-support and encompasses full participation in opportunities which Canadians enjoy. Canadian Friends of Somalia is also committed towards promotion and facilitation of economic and social for Somali-Canadians by building relationships and empowering civil society groups through partnerships and networks, coalition building, task forces and other participatory approach with a view of enabling them to enjoy peaceful and prosperous life in Canada.

In the past five years CFS has organized high profile events such as:

A reception on Parliament Hill: Aimed at making the public aware of difficulties that Somali Canadian face in Canada and within their former nation because of civil war and the need of humanitarian aid, social programs and projects to help create an opportunity for a better quality of life.

Tsunami Fundraising: The CFS partnered with Oxfam Canada to raise approximately over \$6000 to help alleviate human suffering caused by the Tsunami that struck Eastern Somalia.

Educational Development Project: CFS has led a successful nationwide fundraising activity to collect money needed to develop land for State University.

Conference on Somalia: Canadian Friends of Somalia marked 2006 International Human Rights Day with addresses from various concerned Canadians including Jack Layton, federal leader of the NDP, Senator Mobina Jaffer, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen his Excellency Dr. Abdulla Nasher, Rahim Jaffer, Chair of the national Conservative caucus, Hon. Keith Martin, Official Opposition Critic for Foreign Affairs and other Members of Parliament as well as representatives from different Canadian government departments and various NGO's. Attendees assembled on Parliament Hill to call the Canadian government to increase its aid to the region and reassess its approach to the nation. The four actionable recommendations stressed include the implementation of an effective national policy framework for Somalia, and the appointment of a special Canadian envoy for Somalia.

The Challenges and Opportunities of Nation Building in Somalia:

Canadian Friends of Somalia hosted a conference entitled: the Challenges and Opportunities of Nation Building in Somalia. CFS collaborated with Partnership Africa Canada (PAC), Somali Canadian Institute for Research and Development (Som-Can) and Centre for Developing-Area Studies at McGill University. *(Funded by IDRC)*

Canada day Celebration 2010: CFS organizes all day event to celebrate Canada day, to promote civic participation, citizenship and pride. *(Funded by Canada Heritage)*

Ongoing Projects and Activities include:

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- Justice Engagement Services for Somali Youth (*Funded by Justice Canada*)
- Substance Use Prevention for Somali Youth and Parents (*funded by Health Canada*)
- Gang Prevention and Intervention Project
- Youth Employment Program
- Civic Engagement
- Well & Wise project and more....

WHY THIS CONFERENCE

Somalia has been in a devastating war for over 20 years. Since the ongoing civil war started in 1991, there has been immense suffering and the displacement of millions of innocent civilians. An estimated 600,000 people have lost their lives. As many as three million people are believed to have been displaced internally and externally; the pro-longed civil war in Somalia and the rise of extremist organizations are affecting many Somalis in the Diaspora including Somali-Canadians, particularly the youth. The radicalization of Somali-Youth has become an international issue and now transcends all borders.

This event was needed locally, regionally, and nationally to openly discuss the impact that extremism and youth radicalization has on the Somali community and Canada as a whole. It is extremely important to engage the Somali Diaspora communities to recognize what is at stake, participate in peace building and develop strategies disrupting the spread of extremism.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Provide a platform to bridge the gap between policy makers, community leaders, Somali youth, intelligence community and religious figures on the issue of youth radicalization.
- Develop, Conduct and implement a Somali Youth Needs: Assessment survey to give Somali youth a voice on issues relating to radicalization, education, employment, Identity, Civic Engagement, and home life.
- Encourage civic engagement and a richer notion of what it means to be a Canadian citizen.

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EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Increased awareness and to inform the Somali Diaspora and other stakeholders about the magnitude of this crisis.
- Building an integrated, socially responsible Somali-Canadian who respect core democratic values
- Increased interaction between different communities.
- Develop strategic policies and approaches eliminating the recruitment and radicalization of youth. Building strong working relationships with all stakeholders in order to ensure the empowerment of youth at risk of radicalization.
- Create a network among service providers that focus on youth radicalization and rehabilitation. Create youth support groups within youth at risk
- Engage youth in active, positive, and effective participation within their community and country.

THE EVENT



The Canadian Friends of Somalia with its partners organized this event to engage dialogue regarding preventing and tackling Somali-Youth radicalization issues with affected communities. A high level two days conference brought together local, national and international stakeholders such as youth, parents, community leaders, faith leaders, academics, law enforcement agencies and policy makers. The presenters discussed, exchanged experiences, and shared ideas and best practices in youth radicalization and de-radicalization issues.

Promoting Peace and Preventing Youth Radicalization Conference was a great success, achieving record attendance. It took place at the National Arts Centre Ottawa, Canada from December 6 -7, 2010. Organised by Canadian Friends of Somalia, the conference was supported by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), Ministry of Public Safety, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Ottawa Police Services (OPS) and Boys and Girls Club Ottawa.

Speakers:



The Honourable Vic Toews (Keynote Speaker)
Minister of Public Safety
Representative of Provencher (Manitoba) Canada

Hon. Vic Toews was first elected to the House of Commons in 2000 and re-elected in 2004, 2006 and 2008. In February 2006, Mr. Toews was appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and in January 2007, was named President of the Treasury Board. Prior to his election to the House of Commons, Mr. Toews was active in Manitoba provincial politics. In 1995, he was elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Rossmere and shortly thereafter, he was appointed Minister of Labour. From 1997 until September 1999, he served as the Attorney General and Minister of Justice for the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Toews graduated from the University of Winnipeg and received his law degree from the University of Manitoba.

The Honourable Vic Toews talked about how radicalization leading to violence is an area of increasing concern and focus for Public Safety Canada. He emphasised how we all have an important role to play in countering violent extremism and in keeping Canada Safe. Mr. Toews talked about the measures our government has taken to strengthen many areas of national security. But stressed “public safety and national security do not begin and end with government. I believe that strong communities are our greatest source of resilience in countering violent extremism. With Canadians working together in their communities to combat terrorism, we are doing our part to combat the global problem of radicalization. We must remain vigilant”.



**Gilles Larochelle Deputy Chief/Chef adjoint
Ottawa Police Services/Police d'Ottawa Police**

Deputy Chief Larochelle joined the Ottawa police in May 1981. Ten years later, he was promoted to sergeant and later to staff sergeant, where he worked in the media relations section. He was subsequently promoted to inspector before being named superintendent, where he was in charge of both the east division and support services. In 1994, Deputy Chief Larochelle authored the History of the Ottawa Police, a book covering the first 167 years of the police force's history. He holds a master's degree in criminology from the University of Ottawa and a bachelor's degree of social science and psychology. Deputy Chief Larochelle has also graduated from both the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy's Police Executive Program and the Institute for Strategic International Studies program of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.



**Hodan Isse PhD
Adjunct Assistant Professor Finance and Managerial
Economics Department University of Buffalo, NY USA**

Dr. Hodan Isse teaches at the University of Buffalo, she received her PhD at George Mason University, her MS at Ohio University, and her BS at Somalia National University. Her areas of expertise include International economics, economic development, public finance, public policy, gender inequality, and foreign aid and trade. Hodan's area of research interest include: monetary theory; international economics; economic development; econometrics; applied microeconomics; managerial macroeconomics; public choice; public finance and public policy.

The title of Hodan Isse remarks was “Causes and consequences of youth Radicalization in the west, the case of Buffalo”. Ms Isse talks about the issues that face most Somali youth in Buffalo; post traumatic stress disorder, poverty, inadequate schooling prior to resettlement and language barriers. Ms Isse discusses the issues that most Somali youth go through; poverty, gang and violence, integration, identity, racism and Islamophobia.



Fathia M. Absie
Freelance Journalist
Broken Dreams Documentary Minnesota,
Minneapolis USA

Fathia M. Absie is a Somali-American trained as a Social Worker and currently working as a freelance journalist in the United States. For the past 3 years Fathia has been working for the Voice of America (VOA) in Washington DC. Fathia was born in Somalia and came to the United States when she was 15 years old, she considers herself a citizen of the world. As a Somali native she feels a desperate urge to tell and document the stories of Somali women and children, whose plight is seldom reported in-depth. Fathia says “I feel a sense of urgency to tell the silent sufferings of the Somali people and share it with the world. My hope is to inspire change through the lenses and the power of social media”.

Fathia presented her documentary and shared her experiences. Broken Dreams is a documentary film about the vanishing Somali Youth of Minneapolis, Minnesota; home to the United States largest Somali immigrants. Many of the young men this documentary talks about had a bright future and were pursuing their American dream when somehow they’ve decided to just give up everything and to go back to Somalia to fight alongside Al-Shabab, the terrorist group that has links to Al-Qaida. This documentary tells the story of some of the boys who subsequently died in Somalia and the devastating impact it had on their family. This is the first time that these parents openly talked about the hopes and dreams of their son’s. This documentary talks to the community leaders, imams and the youth in order to examine how this story affected the entire Somali -American Community in the U.S.



Peter Hansen, PhD
Project Researcher Anthropology,
Danish Institute for International Studies
Denmark

Peter Hansen's academic work have focused on issues of transnational practices among Somalis, return migration from the western diaspora to Somaliland, IDPs in Somaliland, and the Somali diaspora's engagements in development, politics and conflict. He has done fieldwork in Somaliland in 1998, 1999, 2003, 2006 and 2010, in Puntland in 2006 and 2010, and briefly visited South-central Somalia in 2006. Moreover, he has done fieldwork in the Somali diaspora in the UK in 2004, and continuously engaged with the Somali diaspora in Denmark.

The title of Peter Hansen remarks was "Between Recognition, Obligation and Social Control: Local and transnational community involvement among Somalis in Denmark". Mr. Hansen's presentation brings up the question of 'radicalization', discussing what kinds of 'radicalization' he has observed in his engagements with Somalis and the Somali diaspora. He talks about cases from Denmark illustrating cases of 'radicalization', cases where young Somalis have participated in terrorist attacks in Somalia/Mogadishu, and discusses why there is a high risk of 'radicalization' in Denmark (and the underlining causes e.g. stigma, marginalization, and Islamophobia). However, his presentation also highlights that the most common form of 'radicalization' is the essentialization of 'culture', and the formation of explicit political identities (e.g. being 'Somalilander' or 'Puntlander') rather than 'Islamists'. The presentations points out that there are elements of Somali culture and society that works against Islamic 'radicalization' and engagements in terrorism, such as pragmatism, opportunism, the remittance economy, and an particular civil identity, stressing the importance of citizenship, education, rule of law, and governance, among most Somalis in the diaspora. Most of Mr. Hansen's academic work has focused on members of the western Somali diaspora who return to Somaliland, and he uses examples from this work to illustrate some of these points.



Nauja Kleist, PhD Project senior researcher Migration Unit, Danish Institute for International Studies Denmark

Nauja Kleist is a project senior researcher in the Migration Unit, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), working with social, political and cultural aspects of migration and mobility. She holds a PhD in sociology, University of Copenhagen, and an MA in International Development Studies, Roskilde University. Kleist is an expert on diaspora studies and Somali migration, in particular Somali associations and transnational practices. She has carried out field studies among Somalis in Copenhagen since 1999, supplemented with shorter field trips in London and Somaliland. Her research especially focuses on the relationship between inclusion in Danish society and transnational involvement, associational involvement, diaspora mobilization, mobility practices, belonging, positioning, recognition, and gender relations, and she published extensively on these issues. Since 2007, Kleist has also been researching Ghanaian migration and diaspora politics.

The title of Nauja Kleist **remarks** were “Somalis in Denmark –between unity and fragmentation”, and “Somali Associations in Denmark”. Nauja’s talks examined senses of belonging and processes of inclusion and exclusion among Somalis in Denmark. “The about 16,700 Somali nationals and descendants living in Denmark constitute the biggest African group in Denmark and have been a highly visible and contested group in the country since the mid 1990s”. She specifically focused on Somali associations, exploring why and how Somalis engage themselves in ethno-national associations and other kinds of local or transnational community involvement, including contributions to reconciliation and reconstruction in Somalia. she examines which senses of belonging and processes of inclusion such involvements spur, arguing that associations and other kinds of community involvement offer spaces of recognition where it is possible to make a difference and be recognized as a respectable person. Nauja also addresses the question of youth radicalization in relation to belonging and (mis)recognition in Danish society. Her talk is based on fieldwork among Somalis in Copenhagen in 1999, 2003-2004, follow-up interviews in 2010 as well as short trips to Somaliland and London in 2003 and 2004.



Rima Berns-McGown, PhD

Adjunct Faculty, Historical Studies Department and Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies

University of Toronto Canada

Rima Berns-McGown, born in South Africa of a mixed background, is a scholar, writer, and editor whose work explores the spaces between peoples and cultures. She teaches diaspora studies with the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies and the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Toronto, and is managing editor of *International Journal*, the Canadian academic quarterly of international politics, and chair of outreach for the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs. Dr. Berns-McGown holds an MA in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins University's Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC, and a PhD in International Politics from The University of Wales at Aberystwyth, United Kingdom.

The title of Rima Berns-McGown remarks was "The Somali Diaspora in Canada versus the UK". In 1995, shortly after establishment of Somalia diasporas in London and Toronto, Rima interviewed 40 Somalis (men, women, and teenagers) in London (UK) and Toronto. Rima looks at the differences and similarities that both diasporas faced regarding; the need to establish identity, religious preservation, how they dealt with racism or Islamophobia, and integration. Rima also interviewed in 2004 a number of Somali women, mostly single mothers in Regent's Park, Toronto. She comments on the changes that have happened to these women over the years regarding, parenting styles, what being a Canadian means to them, and the realization that "values cross ethnicity and nationality".

The title of Rima Berns-McGown remarks was *The Need to Belong: The Connection Between Identity and Radicalization and What To Do About It*. Rima has been conducting interviews with Somali youth (over 30 thus far, both girls and boys) most in post-secondary education but some out of high school. Rima asked them three questions: what does it mean to you to be Somali; what does it mean to you to be Canadian; and how do you balance the two? "These In-depth interviews with Somali youth indicate that they, as do many first or second-generation Canadians, struggle over identity, in their case, what it means to be Somali and what it means to be Canadian, and how to balance the two sets of ideas. Compounded by the racism and Islamophobia with which they also have to contend, identity confusion is a formidable challenge and can lead on occasion to a search for belonging in

radical enterprises. At the same time, almost all youth interviewed defined “being Canadian” as embodying an ability to respect those who are different – whatever that means. The wider Canadian society and its institutions have an obligation to work to eradicate racism and Islamophobia, to erase barriers to success in school and beyond, and to articulate inclusive understandings of what it means to be Canadian”.



David Shinn

**Adjunct Professor, Elliot School of International Affairs
George Washington University**

David Shinn served for 37 years in the U.S. Foreign Service with assignments to Lebanon, Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritania, Cameroon, Sudan, and as ambassador to Burkina Faso and Ethiopia. In the 1990s, he was the State Department coordinator for Somalia during the international intervention and director of East and Horn of African Affairs.

The title of David Shinn remarks was “Somali Youth Radicalization: A View from South of the Border.” Mr. Shinn looks at the problem in the Somali community in the United States and Canada whereby a number of young Somalis have joined gangs and been attracted to extremist organizations such as al-Shabaab. He also comments on some of the steps that Somali communities have taken to deal with this problem.

**Michael King, PhD Candidate
Department of Psychology
McGill University Canada**

Michael King is a doctoral student in the psychology department at McGill University, Montreal. His research focuses on intergroup conflict and terrorism. He is looking to identify the factors that contribute to the psychological legitimization of violence. In the laboratory, he conducts controlled role-playing scenarios manipulating variables that are thought to justify violence. In the field, he collects the narratives of people who engage in terrorism, and their families, in hopes of understanding the social influences involved. He is published

in an upcoming issue of the journal *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, and has co-authored *The Edge of Violence: a Radical Approach to Extremism*, in collaboration with the British think-tank Demos.

The title of Michael King remarks was “Radicalization in Canada: Young men and the jihadi narrative”. “Security experts and academics have suggested a variety of models to describe “homegrown radicalization”, the process whereby citizens come to accept the legitimacy of terrorist attacks against their own country. Despite the importance of understanding the psychological factors involved, the various models of radicalization are disparate, lack empirical support, and are generally unverifiable”. In Mr. King’s presentation, two factors contributing to radicalization, emerging from fieldwork conducted within Canadian Muslim communities, are discussed: the jihadi narrative and the characteristics of young men.



**Andrew Griffith, Director General
Citizenship and Multiculturalism Branch
Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada**

Andrew Griffith is the Director General, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Branch, Department of Citizenship and Immigration. Andrew leads policy and program development to foster shared citizenship, participation, diversity, and inter-cultural understanding. Previous assignments include Service Canada, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, Industry Canada, and Privy Council Office. In addition to being posted to the Canadian Mission to the World Trade Organization, Geneva, where he was the lead negotiator for trade and environment and standards issues, Andrew has held trade assignments in Los Angeles, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Argentina. Publications include *From a Trading Nation to a Nation of Traders: Toward a Second Century of Canadian Trade Development and Market Access* and *Environmental Protection: A Negotiator's Point of View*.

The title of Andrew Griffith remarks was “Building an Integrated Socially Cohesive Society”. “The vision of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is a stronger Canada: a safe and secure country with a shared bond of citizenship and values; a country that contributes to support our humanitarian tradition and draws the best from the world to help build a nation that is economically, socially and culturally prosperous. While maintaining a suite of immigration, settlement and integration programs that support its vision, CIC has also joined

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with other Government of Canada departments and agencies to discuss ways to mitigate radicalization that may lead to violent extremism”. Mr. Griffith presentation explores how CIC’s policies and programs can enhance the meaning of Canadian citizenship, contribute to community resilience, and discusses how the Department is exploring new approaches to addressing radicalization that may threaten social cohesion.



Amanda Lindhout, Keynote Speaker
Former Canadian Journalist Canada

Working as a journalist Amanda reported from war zones in Africa, Iraq, and Afghanistan. She has worked for the French television station France 24, Iran's Press TV [4] and has reported for Alberta's Red Deer Advocate newspaper. Amanda traveled to Mogadishu, Somalia on August 20, 2008 to report on the famine and violence refugees face in Somalia. On August 23, 2008, Amanda Lindhout and Nigel Brennan, a 37-year-old freelance Australian photojournalist from Brisbane, were kidnapped along with their Somali translator and driver. Amanda no longer works as a journalist; she studied Development Leadership at the COADY International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia and is the executive director of the Global Enrichment Foundation

Amanda recounted her experiences in Somalia and spoke of being held hostage, her recovery over the past two years and about life today, which is largely dedicated to the Global Enrichment Foundation that she started to help improve the lives of Somali women.

Mahbubur Rahman, PhD
Department of Behavioural Sciences
York College/CUNY

Dr. Mahbubur Rahman teaches Political Science and Cultural Diversity at York College of the City University of New York (CUNY). His areas of research interest include: Trends in Contemporary Islam; Multiculturalism and the challenge of Muslim identity and inclusion in Western liberal democracies; Democracy, Human Rights and the Rights of the Minorities." A recipient of several awards and grants including Fulbright Fellowship, Dr. Rahman is a frequent presenter of papers and lectures at professional conferences and workshops. He is also Editor of The Message International, a leading Muslim magazine published from New York.

The title of Mahbubur Rahman remarks was "The Challenge of Muslim Identity and Integration in the West: Can "Fiqh of the Muslim Minorities" Help? "It is widely believed that Muslim religiosity is anathema to their integration in the West. This perception is prevalent not only among those who are ignorant about Islam and/or known to be "Islamophobes",

many Muslims too think that they can't be simultaneously good Muslim and good citizen in the West. More often than not, this view is promoted and validated citing a medieval fatwa (religious ruling) which divided the world between Darul Islam and Darul Harb or Darul Kufr -meaning respectively, the Abode of Islam and the Abode of War or Unbelief --and suggested that Muslims should not settle permanently in non-Muslim lands. Now that some contemporary Muslim jurists reject the above fatwa and speak for what they call "Fiqh al-Aqalliyat" (Jurisprudence of Muslim Minorities) implying this would allow Muslims to participate and integrate fully in the Western societies without the loss of their religious identity", this paper examines this latter proposition. Drawing upon the deliberations, writings and personal interviews of the Muslim jurists who are associated with the Fiqh Council of North America (FCNA), this study explores and extrapolates the likely models of Muslim participation in a Western liberal democracy and their impact on Muslim identity formation and integration in the West.



Dr. Elaine Pressman PhD

Canadian Centre for Intelligence and Security Studies, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs Carleton University, Ottawa, and Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

D. Elaine Pressman is a Senior Fellow in the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton University, Ottawa. She also holds the position of Adjunct Professor (Research) at the Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Ontario. She completed her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and pursued post-doctoral studies at Carleton University and Michigan State University. She has over 20 years experience in university teaching, research and in applied clinical practice. Prior experience has included an appointment as Subject Matter Expert in Defence and Security at the Clingendael Centre for Strategic Studies (CCSS) in The Hague, the Netherlands, Senior Research Fellow at The University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in the Security, Emergency Preparedness and Response Institute (SEPRI), and an advisor in the field of transatlantic security to The University of Groningen, the Netherlands,. Other training and experience includes the behavioural sciences with a range of expertise in the field of communication and psycholinguistics. She is a certified expert in a communication related area of forensics. Her

current research interests are in the area of risk assessment of violent political extremists.

The title of D. Elaine Pressman's remarks was "A Proposed Framework for De-radicalization Programs: The Use of Risk Indicators for Program Evaluation and Program Targets". Dr Pressman looks at the issues related to de-radicalization and proposes a model for the construction of de-radicalization programs. The model proposed consists of three elements including ideation, communication and behaviour. These elements each have identified components that are evaluated in terms of past known radicalization behaviour and current behaviours. The differential analysis undertaken for each individual in the de-radicalization program determines the specific characteristics and elements involved in each personal radicalization process. Individualized targets for the de-radicalization program are determined from this analysis. Individualized de-radicalization programs are appropriate for those known to be committed to an extreme ideology that justifies the use of violence. This individualized approach is differentiated from more general ideological shaping programs used for groups of less committed individuals. Program success is able to be determined by the assessed individual changes on critical risk indicators. Evaluation of the total de-radicalization program is dependent on demonstrated and observed changes in risk related criteria for the population involved.



Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, Ph.D. Candidate

Director of the Center for the Study of Terrorist Radicalization,

Vice President of research at the Foundation for Defence of Democracies USA

Daveed Gartenstein-Ross is the vice president of research at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies as well as the Director of the Center for the Study of Terrorist Radicalization. He consults for a number of clients who need to be at the forefront of understanding terrorism and Islamic extremism, including the Manhattan Institute's Center for Policing Terrorism, the Christian Broadcasting Network, and law enforcement. Previous positions that Gartenstein-Ross has held include commercial litigator at Boies, Schiller & Flexner and law clerk on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He received his law degree from the New York University School of Law and his bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University.

Daveed Gartenstein-Ross spoke of the importance of strong relations between law enforcement

and the Somali community in Canada. Speaking from a perspective that is familiar with law enforcement work and investigatory needs, he emphasized that maintaining strong community relations is important because it is the right thing to do, but also because it can be a positive tool for law enforcement. Gartenstein-Ross provided several concrete examples of how ties with relevant communities can be forged, but emphasized that this is an extended process and not something that will occur instantly.

Recommendations:

- Develop strategies and programming that are targeted at enhancing social cohesion
- Support initiatives/programming that helps communities find ways to develop social capital
- Support the establishment of a board of leading Muslim scholars and community leaders to help articulate an understanding of Islam in Canada
- Create national and regional young persons' forums to provoke debate and contribute to policy development
- Provide enhanced funding for local and national projects to tackle violent extremism
- To hear directly from young people and allow them to contribute to policy development through establishment of youth initiatives and programs
- Support capacity building for community organizations and ensure funded programs support Canadian values (e.g. democracy, rule of law, gender equality, and active tolerance)
- Discuss radicalization without stigmatizing Somalis and without diminishing the problems

- The Somali Community must take leadership in providing a positive and effective collaboration between law enforcement, youth and the larger community
- Follow up workshops
- Establish leaders within the Somali Community that take the lead in community dialogue
- Promote the true essence of Islam within the Somali Community by engaging the religious leaders.

Evaluations:

Promoting Peace and Preventing Youth Radicalization Conference was held in Ottawa from December 6-7. In total 241 people attended the conference over the two days.

Evaluation feedback was provided through an end-of conference evaluation form completed by 95 conference attendees. The Canadian Friends of Somalia also received further feedback via email. More than 88% of the evaluation form respondents rated the Conference 'very good' or 'excellent' overall.

Specifically the following features of the conference were consistently rated highly by the

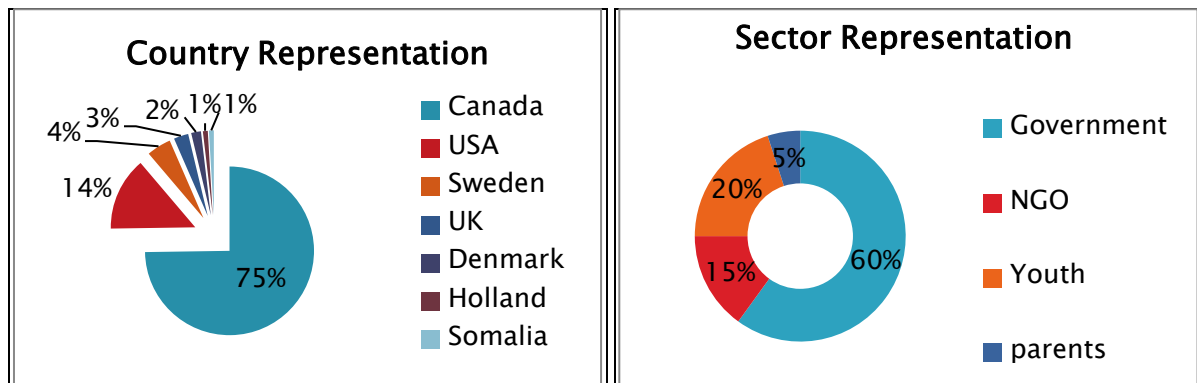
majority of respondents.

- Quality of speakers and presenters
- Event Schedule
- Venue and facilities
- Social aspect and networking

Participants of the conference generally reflected that the conference was successful. Perhaps the strongest response from participants was with regard to how the conference provided a forum for people from different sectors to discuss such a sensitive issue.

Evaluation feedback suggested changes for future conference:

- More opportunity for participant engagement
- Facilitating concurrent sessions that allow discussion and recommendation for action
- More focus on the root causes of radicalization and prevention
- Include more youth representation



TESTIMONIAL AND COMMENTS

- ❖ It was a pleasure and an honour to be involved with such a conference. I am looking forward to further endeavours in the future.

Hamid Mousa
Ottawa Police Service

- ❖ My congratulations to you, the organizing committee and the executive director for an outstanding conference. You are to be commended for courageously tackling such a delicate community problem with such sensitivity.

James W. Moore, LL.M., Ph.D.
Defence R&D Canada

- ❖ The theme of the conference was right on time and the program was very rich and informative. I informed all my acquaintances how enlightening your conference was. Thank you for hosting such an educative conference.

Rahma Muse
IDRC

- ❖ One of the best conferences I have been to in a long time, excellent work.

Participant

I have been a police officer for 17 years and have been to several conferences. This one was one of the best I have ever attended. The panel you brought forward to this event was amazing. I really like the opportunity to speak with some of the youths and others. They took the time to explain to me what I NEEDED to understand and learn. Thank you so much for everything and job well done.

Luc Bouvier
Ontario Provincial Police

My congratulations to you, the organizing committee and the executive director for an outstanding conference. You are to be commended for courageously tackling such a delicate community problem with such sensitivity.

James W. Moore, LL.M., Ph.D.
Defence R&D Canada

Conference Program

Day 1: Monday, December 6, 2010

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Registration/ Continental Breakfast Welcome -**
9:00 am – 9:20 am **Opening Remarks**

Farah Aw-Osman, Executive Director
Canadian Friends of Somalia

&

Gilles Larochelle, Deputy Chief/Chef adjoint Police
d'Ottawa Police

9:20 am – 9:40 am **Keynote Speaker**

Hon. Vic Toews,
Minister of Public Safety

9:40 am – 10:30 am **PANEL: 1**

**The current state of Somalia and the threat of
extremist groups:**

Dr. Hodan Isse, Adjunct Assistant Professor Department
of Finance and Managerial Economics School of
Management, University (SUNY) at Buffalo

10:30 am – 10:45 am **Coffee Break**

- 10:45 am – 12:30 pm **PANEL: 2**
Somali Youth in the Diaspora: current situation, prospects and challenges:
- Ibrahim Isse**
Director Somali Youth Development Resource Centre
London, UK
- Ahmed Hassan**
Executive Director United Somali-Swedish
Youth Organization Stockholm, Sweden
- Amal Issa**
Youth Leader
SCERDO Edmonton,
Alberta
- Hassan Farah**
Youth Leader
Buffalo, New York
- 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm **Lunch**
- 1:45 pm – 2:30 pm **Video: The impact of Youth Radicalisation on the Somali Diaspora Families & Communities**
Presenter: Farhia Absie, Freelance Journalist
- 2:30 pm – 3:40 pm **PANEL: 3**
Somali Communities in the Diaspora
- Dr. Nauja Kleist**
Project senior researcher, Migration Unit
Danish Institute for International Studies
- Peter Hansen, PhD**
Project Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies
- Hussein Ali Yusuf, Ph.D. Candidate**
Program Officer Engaging Governments on Genocide Prevention
Program (EGGP) Institute For Conflict Analysis and Resolution George
Mason University
- 3:40 pm – 4:00 pm **Coffee & Networking Break**

4:00 pm – 4:40 pm

PANEL: 4

The Radicalization of young Somali Youth in the West: Recent Trends in Somali Youth Diaspora joining Al-Shabaab

Peter Hansen, PhD

Project Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies

Other speakers include: Members of Law enforcement agencies

4:40 pm – 5:00 pm

Presentation on the findings of the Somali Youth Needs Assessment

5:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Recap and Closing Remarks

Day 2: Tuesday, December 7, 2010

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Registration/ Continental Breakfast

Topic: Holding on to Hope

9:00 am – 9:30 am

Keynote Speaker: Amanda Lindhout

Canadian Journalist and Former Hostage

9:30 am – 10:30 am

PANEL: 1

Topic #1: Underlying causes of Youth Radicalisation in the West

Dr. Hodan Isse

Adjunct Assistant Professor Finance and Managerial

Economics Department University at Buffalo, NY

Topic # 2: Radicalization in Canada: Young men and the jihadi narrative

Michael King, PhD Candidate

Department of Psychology, McGill University

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Coffee Break & Networking

11:00 am – 11:20 am

Presentation on the findings of the Somali Youth Needs Assessment

Presenter: **Ali Mohamed**

11:20 am – 12:15 pm

PANEL: 2

Topic: Countering Youth Radicalisation - Update and Options for Action

Somali Youth Radicalization: A View from South of the Border

Prof. David Shinn

Elliott School of International Affairs,
George Washington University

Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, Ph.D. Candidate

Director of the Center for the Study of Terrorist Radicalization the
Foundation for Defense of Democracies

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

Lunch Break

1:15 pm – 2:00 pm

PANEL: 3

De-Radicalization best practices

Dr. Eleine Pressman

Senior Research Fellow, Canadian Centre for Security and
Intelligence Studies (CCISS) Norman Paterson School of
International Affairs (NPSIA), Carleton University, Ottawa and
Adjunct Professor (Research) Politics and Economics (Security and
Defence) Royal Military College of Canada

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

PANEL: 4

Forging an Effective Counterterrorism Strategies between Somali Diaspora Communities and Respective Agencies

The Challenge of Muslim Identity and Integration in the West: Can “Fiqh of the Muslim Minorities” Help?

Dr. Mahbubur Rahman

York College of the City University of New York

3:00 pm – 3:30 **Coffee Break**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Abdirizak Farah

Policy Advisor Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm **PANEL 4**

**Symposium: Building an integrated, socially responsible Somali
Diaspora who respect core democratic values**

**The Need to Belong: The Connection between Identity and
Radicalization and What to Do About It**

Rima Berns-McGown, PhD

Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies and
Department of Historical Studies University of
Toronto, Managing Editor

Nauja Kleist, PhD

Project senior researcher, Migration Unit
Danish Institute for International Studies

Building an Integrated Socially Cohesive Society

Andrew Griffith, Director General,
Citizenship and Multiculturalism Branch,
Citizenship and Immigration Canada

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Recap and Closing Remarks