CIVIL SOCIETY IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

IN GARBAHARREY AND

BELET-HAWA TOWNS

GEDO REGION

SOMALIA

A Thesis

Presented to the School of

Postgraduate Studies and Research

Kampala International University

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Conflict Resolution

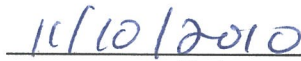By:

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October, 2010

DECLARATION A

I, undersigned do declare that this dissertation is my original work and has not been presented for a Degree or any other academic award in any University or Institution of higher Learning.
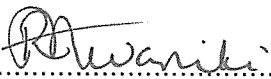
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DECLARATION B

I, confirm that the work reported in this Thesis "Civil Society in Conflict Resolution in Garbaharrey and Belet-Haw Towns of Gedo region, Somalia " carried out by Abdullahi Mohamed Hersi has been submitted under my supervision.
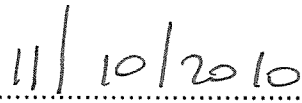
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APPROVAL SHEET

This dissertation entitled" Civil Society in conflict Resolution in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa towns of Gedo region, Somalia" prepared and submitted by Abdullahi Mohamed Hersi in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the masters degree of Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building has been examined and approved by the panel on oral examination with a grade of <u>PASSED</u>.

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DEDICATION

This work is affectionately dedicated to the Civil Society organizations, my mother, beloved wife and my children.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the Almighty Allah for giving the strength, health, grace and opportunity to accomplish this piece of work.

I am particularly grateful to my supervisor Dr Mwaniki who tireless went through my work and accorded me the necessary technical advice and motivation without which this report would not have been produced.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to establish the role of the civil society in conflict resolution at grass root levels in Garbaharrey and Belet-hawa towns of Gedo region, Somalia.

The specific objectives of the study were to identify magnitude of the conflict; establish contributions of civil society and to find out challenges faced by the civil society groups in Gedo region, Somalia.

Questionnaires and focus group discussion were applied to collect data from the 100 respondents selected purposively from 2000 members of the civil society groups namely women, youth, traditional elders, media, professional associations, business community and private sector and Local NGOs in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa towns of Gedo region, Somalia. The findings of the study indicated that repeated violations of human rights and impunity, high rate of destitution; lack of basic services and economic opportunities contributed the escalation of armed violence in Gedo region, Somalia.

The findings of the study indicated that civil society actors in Gedo region have contributed a peaceful resolution of the conflicts in the region through public awareness, advocacy against violence, mediation and reconciliation at localized level. The study revealed that civil society faces many challenges including insecurity, threats and suppression from different conflictants.

The study recommended the civil society to provide humanitarian assistance, promote coordination and networking among them and bottom up approach for conflict resolution where civil society actors are at the centre of the reconciliation and state-building process for Somalia.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the study

The drive for conducting this research was, after experiencing 18 years of armed conflict and bloodshed in southern Somalia especially in Gedo which was the epicenter of intra-inter vicious and cyclic clan conflict. The failures of many national reconciliation conferences had adversely affected the aspirations of many residents in Gedo and I myself included. It is almost two decades since the disintegration of the central government of Somalia that the innocent civilian majority of them women, children and elderly are suffering from multiple social, political and economic illnesses. Few notorious and power hungry individual warlords dominate the national process for search to durable solution to the Somali predicaments. Many efforts from the international community aimed at restoring peace and harmony were aborted by selfish individuals who claim to be the representatives for the people in Gedo. I was specifically touched about the number of young people who grew in the anarchy and recruited by the warlords.   As a student of Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building and a member of the people of Gedo, I felt that I have an obligation to conduct a research with aim of investigating factors that contributed the intractability of the conflict in Somalia specifically in Gedo. This study has focused on the contribution of the civil society in the conflict resolution and peace-building at local and the challenges they face.

Conflict resolution is a range of methods for alleviating or eliminating sources of conflict. The term "conflict resolution" is sometimes used interchangeably with the term dispute resolution or alternative dispute

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In Somalia context, civil society comprise of modern and traditional characteristics, with the latter being the socio-cultural cornerstone of Somali daily life. Shane Quinn and Ibrahim Farah (2008) conceptualized civil society as a grouping of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), religious leaders (hoggaamiyeyaashadiinta), and other informal social and community groups (kooxahabulshada); local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) known as Hayadaha aan dawliga ahayn ee waddaniga ah; and professional associations (xirfadleyda) such as teachers, medical personnel, lawyers, journalists, and performing artists/composers. Quinn and Farah also define traditional civil society as a set of customary institutions for intermediation comprising traditional elders (odaydhaqameedyada) that tend to hold sway in the rural areas and legitimate institution for resolving localized and micro-conflicts.

1.2   Statement of the Problem

Somalia is undisputed failed state and without a functioning government for the past 19 years. The country experienced anarchy and one of the longest and most catastrophic civil war in post colonial Africa. Despite its homogeneity in terms of sharing same religious beliefs, language, cultural values and ethnicity, the conflict in Somalia has become deep rooted, destructive and complex.

This intractable conflict caused massive internal and external displacement, economic collapse, complex humanitarian crises, ever increasing vulnerabilities, gross and unreported violations of human rights and impunity.

The UN, others representatives of international community, neighboring and regional groups namely IGAD, African Union and Arab League have tried repeatedly to build a centralized, decentralized or federal system of governance for Somalia but in vain.

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The international community's quick fix solutions and top down approaches characterized by poor coordination, rivalry and individual countries pursuing their national interests contributed not only persistent failures of peace processes but also perpetuated the armed conflict and warlordism.

Terrorism and piracy emerged as result of the protracted conflict, lawlessness and fatigue on the side of Somali civilian population. Furthermore the fledgling Transitional Federal Government (TFG) is unable to win against the intricate syndicate of criminals and restore peace and security as the first is dominated by corrupted individuals and former warlords.

This brings the question how the Somali conflict can be contained? What can civil society contribute to fill the gap? It is because of this dilemma that the researcher decided to carry out a study on the civil society and conflict resolution in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa towns of Gedo region, Somalia.

1.3   Overall Objective of the Research:

To establish the role of the civil society in conflict resolution at grass root levels in Garbaharrey and Belet-hawa towns of Gedo region, Somalia.

1.3.1 Specific Objective of the Research

To identify the magnitude of the conflict in Belet-Hawa and Garbaharrey towns of Gedo region.

To establish the contribution of the civil society in conflict resolution and sustainable peace-building in Belet-Hawa and Garbaharrey towns in Gedo Region

To find out the challenges of conflict resolution in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa Districts of Gedo region.

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1.4   Research Questions

What is the magnitude of the conflict in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa towns of Gedo region?

What are the contributions of the civil society in conflict resolution in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa towns of Gedo region?

What are challenges of conflict resolution in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa Districts of Gedo region?

1.5   Scope of the study

The study focused on Gedo Region which is situated in south-western Somalia, bordering both Ogaden region in Ethiopia and North Eastern Province in Kenya and the Somali regions of Bakool, Bay, Jubbada Dhexe (Middle Juba), and Jubbada Hoose (Lower Juba) further down east . The Gedo region consists of seven districts including: Bula Hawo, Bardera, Dolow, El Wak, Garbaharrey Burdhubo and Luqh. About 75% of the people in Gedo region are nomadic pastoralists. The remainder of the population is comprised of urban dwellers, agro-pastoralists and riverine agriculturalists along the Juba and Dawa rivers.

Gedo is one of regions in south and central part of Somalia and an epicenter of state failure, lawlessness and violent conflict. This region experienced inters/ intra clan conflicts, political and sectarian confrontation between hard-line Alshabab group which belong to radical Wahhabi school of thought and AhluSunnahWalJama'a (ASWJ) of moderate Sufi Muslims.

Because of the limited and time resources, the study focused on civil society actors in Garbaharrey and Belet-hawa Towns as a sample for whole of Gedo region.
The study enumerated the role of the civil society notably the traditional elders, religious, women, youth leaders, professional, journalists and local NGOs in conflict

Figure 1. 1 Diagramatic relationships of the variables
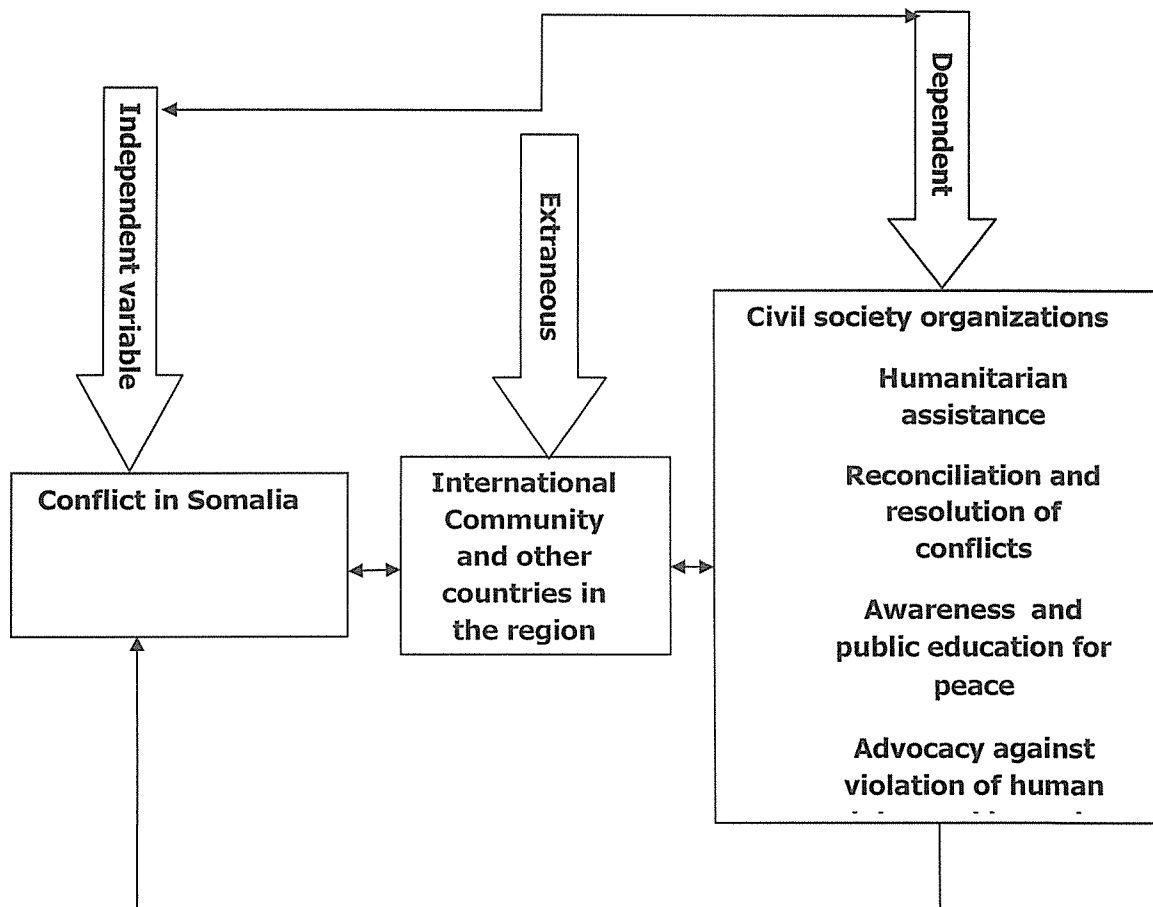
Source: Researcher's own formulation.

As diagram 1.1 above indicates violence conflict is an independent variable and civil society is also dependent variable while international community other interested countries in the region are extraneous variable. The means civil society's role would have been limited should the current armed conflict and resultant humanitarian crises were inexistent. Therefore civil society play vital role as far as the conflict in Somalia is concern.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0   Introduction

This chapter discusses the literature by researchers related to role of civil society in conflict resolution. The civil society organizations in conflict resolution in Somalia remains blurred. Most of the organizations in Gedo were in forefront of resolving many localized conflicts and mostly without any support from the so-called international community, regional and sub-regional bodies.

2.1   Theoretical framework

This study is based on the Ashutosh Varshney (2001) theory on ethnic conflict and organization of civil society which explores why some inter-group conflicts become violent while others do not. The theory stresses that the mere existence of different communal identity groups does not, in itself, generate violent conflict. The key variable, Varshney argues, is the strength or weakness of inter-communal civil society. If members of different groups have regular means of interacting with each other and participate in common institutions or other common spaces, the risks of violence are greatly reduced even if conflict dynamics continue.

Varshney observes, however, that it is necessary to have civic organizations that are inter-communal rather than only intra-communal: civil society groups that are limited to one community can become engines of communal strife rather than of social harmony. The important factor is whether or not these organizations provide

a venue in which people of different communities get to know each other in a direct, personal way.

Varshney's research affirms observations made by Simmel, Coser and other social theorists about the importance of what are referred to as cross-cutting ties in shaping conflict dynamics. These are relationships that cut across social groups, and that could become a dividing line along which conflict is organized.

Somalia is not only the nightmare of its own citizen but proxy war as well as contradictory and top down prescriptions from foreign countries. Kaplan (2010) observes that the international community should abandon its attempts to impose a top down, centralized, and profoundly artificial state model and begin to work with, rather than against, the grain of Somali society. Kaplan further argues that clans have helped destroy Somalia's centralized governments, but they can be instrumental in helping rebuild national governance from the bottom up.

Using the unwritten code of conduct or social contract called xeer, non-state civil society actors invited the most respected representatives from different groups to dialogue meetings, which helped to open communication between different clans and communities. Civil society members helped to smooth relationships and reduce tensions between communities, thus helping to prevent new conflicts. However, due to its proximity to Ethiopia, most of the conflicts escalated as result of external influences. Ironically the participation of the civil society in Gedo in the efforts towards national reconciliation and state-building was either inexistent or very little.

2.2.1 Magnitude of the conflict

The state of peace and security on the African continent remains a pre-occupying phenomenon, with successes and continuing challenges. Indeed, alongside the steady progress in the establishment of the African Union (AU) continental peace and security architecture and the promising achievements, the geopolitical map of Africa continues to bear the marks of several latent crises. Political corruption, lack of respect for rule of law, human rights violations are all common reasons heard for some of the causes of Africa's problems (Bercovitch et al 2009). There are also marks of multiple full-blown conflicts in the face of which peace efforts are often met with opposition or simply foiled by the existence of diverse challenges. The diverse challenges are often based on the logic of confrontation and on rivalries, to the detriment of concepts that are more receptive to the exigencies of peaceful solutions anchored on dialogue, compromise and win-win for mutual benefit.

Although it is instructive to note that not all the continent is beset by conflicts, where they exist, conflicts have led to devastating effects, including: deaths to innocent civilians, refugees across borders, internal displacements, loss and destruction of property, disruption of socio-economic activities as well as costs relating to their management and resolution. The innocent people of Africa deserve a settled life to fully exploit their potential. In fact, it is a human right that they live in dignity. This aspiration is one of the considerations enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, to promote peace, security and stability on the continent (Kutesa, 2009).

The crisis manifests in many different forms: civil wars, the violation of human rights, the suppression of civil liberties, abject poverty, famine, epidemics, debt problems, population displacement, ecological disaster and disenfranchisement. Marginalized social groups, including women, children, the elderly, the

economically destitute and ethnic minorities, bear the brunt (Maxled and Zegeye 2001).

Over the past 19 years, Somalia has become known more for its problems of conflict and instability than anything else. 19 years of anarchy, with several feuding warlords and religious extremists in charge of what is left of the country, has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent people. The total absence of law and order, the destruction of the country's infrastructure and the general collapse of governing institutions as well as of the economy that was already on an external aid life-support system for years. The world witnessed Somalia descent into a morass of instability and a conflict that would continue two decades later (Prendergast, 1996).

The lands claimed by the Somalis stretch from the current rump of Somalia to the self-proclaimed republic of Somaliland, Djibouti, into the North Province of Kenya, and the Ogaden across the Ethiopian border. Until the late nineteenth century, the Somali peoples had successfully resisted encroachments by external powers. Equally, they had eschewed the formation of a unitary state. Though fluid loyalties and shifting allegiances are the hallmark of the social system, two main lineages - the Sab and Samale, and six main clans are conventionally recognised in ethnographic surveys: Dir, Isaq, Darod, Hawiye, Digil and Rahanwein. Among the first organisations to oppose the regime of SiadBarre were: the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF, 1979) which contained mainly Majerteen, a sub-clan of the Darod clan; the Somali National Movement (SNM, 1981), which was based among the Isaq in the north of the country: the United Somali Congress (USC, 1989) which seized Mogadishu in 1991 and was made up of members of the Hawiye (Drysdale, 1994).

Opposition therefore crystallized among the less favoured groups: the Isaq who formed the Somali National Movement (SNM) in the north of the country, and the Majerteen, whose political organisation, the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) operated from across the Ethiopian border. The Hawiye-based United Somali Congress (USC) later joined them. This insurgency was fuelled by the wide availability of armed weapons scattered by the retreating Somali army, and those readily supplied by the Ethiopian government. While military operations were often difficult to distinguish from banditry, the government response left no room for ambiguity. According to Africa Watch the clamp-down on northern dissidents in the early 1980s, escalated into military campaigns in which an estimated 50,000-60,000 civilians perished (Drysdale, 1994).

Ken Menkhaus (2010) contends that many diplomatic efforts made by international community to resolve the protracted conflict in Somalia failed. Menkhaus argues that approximately 14 national reconciliation conferences were convened over the succeeding decade and a closer look reveals that only six were fully fledged national peace conferences.

The Djibouti Talks of June-July 1991, at which Ali Mahdi was declared interim President, a move General Mohamed Farah Aideed rejected. This peace process was only a set of negotiations intended to form an interim government for Somalia. The six parties on this negotiation are The United Somali Congress (USC); its main rival in southern Somalia, The Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM); The Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF); The Somali Democratic Movement (SDM); The Somali Democratic Association (SDA) and The United Somali Front (USF). The negotiation inadvertently exacerbated political tensions which

culminated in the explosion of armed conflict destroying much of Mogadishu in late 1991.

The Addis Ababa National Reconciliation Talks of January and March 1993. Menkhaus this meeting as "the linchpin" of the UN intervention in Somalia that was meant to provide a blueprint for the creation of a two-year interim government. The Addis Ababa talks convened fifteen clan-based factions and produced a rushed and vaguely-worded accord that sparked tensions between the UN and some armed factions over whether the creation of district and regional councils were to be a bottom-up process or controlled by factions. Armed conflict broke out between General Aideed's faction and UN peacekeepers, which derailed the mission and blocked implementation of the accord.

The Sodere Conference of 1996-97, convened by neighboring Ethiopia with a aim of reviving a decentralized, federal Somali state at the expense of factions that opposed Ethiopia. A rival peace process in Egypt, the 'Cairo Conference', undermined Sodere. The Sodere talks introduced the principle of fixed proportional representation by clan, the '4.5 formula', used subsequently in the country.

The Cairo Conference of 1997 convened by Egypt, a regional rival of Ethiopia, to promote a centralized Somali state and elevate the power of Somali factions that boycotted the Sodere talks. The two broad coalitions that emerged from Sodere and Cairo formed the basis for the main political divisions in Somalia in subsequent years.

The Arta Peace Conference of 2000 convened in Djibouti. This brought civic rather than faction leaders to the talks and used telecommunications technology to broadcast proceedings back to Somalia. In the end it produced a three-year Transitional National Government (TNG) that empowered a Mogadishu-based coalition at the expense of a pro-Ethiopian alliance. It faced numerous domestic opponents as well as Ethiopian hostility and never became operational. The

Mbagathi conference of 2002-04 sponsored by regional organization IGAD a lengthy conference in Kenya to produce a successor to the failed TNG. With heavy Kenyan and Ethiopian direction, the delegates consisted mainly of militia and political leaders, not representation of civil society, and promoted a federalist state. A phase of the talks dedicated to resolution of conflict issues – an innovation intended to prevent the talks from devolving into a mere power sharing deal – never gained traction. The Mbagathi talks culminated in the creation of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in late 2004 and the controversial election of President Abdullahi Yusuf. The TFG was deeply divided at the outset, with many Somalis raising objections about the legitimacy of representation at the talks. The TFG has struggled in subsequent years and has yet to become a minimally functional government or to advance key transitional tasks (Menkhaus 2010).

But it is important to mention the January 2009 Meeting in neighboring Djibouti, in which Somalia's parliament swears in 149 new members from the main opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia. It elects a moderate Islamist, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, president, and extends the transitional government's mandate for another two years. This was the relatively the first successful reconciliatory effort made after the heavy war and worst humanitarian crisis that followed the intervention of Ethiopia. Unfortunately none of them were able to provide a concrete ground for the formation of recognized and powerful central government till today. Currently the TFG controls only parts of the capital city, Mogadishu with help and protection of AMISOM peacekeepers.

Nearly twenty years have passed when the Somali state collapsed and was replaced by warlords ruling clan fiefdoms. Power struggles that made Somalia a country known for famine, extremism, clan warfare and piracy were further

complicated by struggle over the nature of the future Somalia state (Liban Ahmad 2007)

State building in Somalia has consistently been pursued via powers haring accords without serious attempts at reconciliation of issues such as territorial occupation and conquest in southern Somalia. This may partially account for the high failure rate of these accords. (Menkhuas 2007)

The political ideology is one of the main triggers of the conflict in Somalia as different clans, groups and authorities prefer a system of governance that suits their needs. For instance north western (Somaliland) region of Somalia proclaimed unilateral independence from the rest of Somalia. North Eastern regions formed an autonomous state known as Puntland and is in favour of federalism; Hawiye clans and sub-clans associated with the former United Somali Congress (USC) of Gen. Aideed are against federalism but in favour of 4.5 (four big clans and half for minority clans) power-sharing formula under a central government with a seat in Mogadishu; other clans and sub-clans in southern part of country are so fragmented and hence either supporting the federalism or centralism; Islamist groups (Al Shabab and Hizbul Islam) are for an Islamic Sharia-based state (Liban Ahmad 2007).

The weakened Somali civil society and the Somali Diaspora are caught up in the task of peace-building and state-building in an extremely insecure Somali political environment. They are also partly to blame for being partial and partly contributing to fuelling the war either through the more than USD 1 billion they send back to Somalia annually and through political support and patronage to Somali factions and groups (LPI 2009).

Attacks targeting human rights defenders were much less frequent in 2009 than in 2008. But in part this reflects the fact that many of Somalia's most prominent human rights defenders have fled the country. Those who remain have seen their

capacity to operate effectively dramatically diminished by the prevailing insecurity and by specific threats against them (Human Right Watch 2010).

The delivery of humanitarian assistance to Somalia has been severely hampered by the prevailing insecurity and by threats specifically targeting humanitarian agencies. Most of the humanitarian agencies operating in Somalia have had to dramatically curtail their operations or have been driven out of south-central Somalia altogether. In opposition-controlled areas where millions of Somalis are in need of assistance, humanitarians have come under regular threat by al-Shabaab and other groups who accuse them of colluding with international efforts to back the TFG in its war effort.

The humanitarian needs are growing faster than the ability to deal with the drivers of the Somali conflict and its effects. These include natural and other disasters such as drought, food and financial crisis, water scarcity, refugee influx, mass displacement, and population pressure (Farah, I 2010).

The population of Gedo Region has experienced two consecutive rainfall and crop failures coupled with persistent insecurity since the collapse of Somalia state. This has led to loss of human life and severe erosion of productive assets.

Widespread livestock deaths have occurred. Cattle, the most important livestock specie in southern Somali, have been the worst affected species with mortality rates ranging between 50 and 70 percent of the pre-crisis herds

(FEWSNET2006).

2.2.2 Contributions of the Civil Society

Civil society can provide the necessary push for peaceful social change, especially when the top echelons within a conflict context are unwilling or unable to budge on the fundamental conflict issues. This is not to say that civil society is always and necessarily a force for good. Engagement with civil society is not an end in itself,

nor is it a panacea. But it is vital to our efforts to turn the promise of peace agreements into the reality of peaceful societies and viable states...... engaging with local civil society is of the essence to enhance the legitimacy and thus long-term effectiveness of conflict transformation policies (Tocci 2008).

The role of civil society in conflict resolution and peace building encompasses many areas including development of structural conditions, attitude and mode of political behavior that permit peaceful, stable and ultimately prosperous social and economic development (Smith 2003; 17).

There are four main areas of interest in which civil society has the potential to inculcate positive change for conflict resolution and sustainable peace building. Provision of security, institution of socio-economic foundations of long-tern peace, establishment of political framework for long term peace, advancement of reconciliation and healing of the wound of war and justice are basic ingredient for grass root peace-building (Schirch 2008; 25).

Civil society has a unique potential and can make many positive contribution to peace building and conflict resolution (World Bank 2006: 6). Civil society's role in conflict affected countries is wide acknowledged. World Bank explains that in numerous armed conflicts, rebellions and civil war, citizens and civil society groups show that they can be more than victims, refugees, and impotent by-standers-women in Kashmir organize dialogue across ethnic divides, NGOs document human right violations in Nepal; international peace brigades protect trade union leaders in Colombia: Somali people have represented and organized themselves and individuals and organizations have taken on many of the traditional roles of the

state, filling the vacuum in service provision and opening channels of debate; a religious community facilitated peace negotiations in Mozambique, inter-religion council in Sierra Leone brought warring factions to the negotiation table; a Rwandan NGO organized peace and camps and soccer games for mixed Hutu and Tutsi team (world Bank 2006:8)

According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2008) civil society actors are individuals who voluntarily engage in forms of public participation and action around shared interests, purposes or values that are compatible with the goals of the United Nations.

Civil society organizations mobilize the public to tackle and react to the underlying conditions of structural or open violence through education, training, capacity-building and awareness raising. Indeed many social movements are constituted by networks of like-minded NGOs operating at grassroots and mid-levels. Mid and grassroots CSOs also induce conflict transformation by fostering societal reconciliation, through inter-communal dialogue, peace commissions and by fostering functional cooperation and communication across communities. Finally, local CSOs can reach out to the wider public through service delivery, be this of a material (e.g., relief and rehabilitation) or psychological nature (post-war trauma therapy). Local civil society interactions with the public are of the essence to ensure that the voice of the people is not swamped in the evolution of both conflict and peace (Tocci 2008: 13).

According to (ThaniaPafferholz and ChristophSpurk 2006:7) armed conflict is a fundamental obstacle to development and that is why during and in the aftermath of conflict, high hopes are placed on the de-escalating or conflict-transforming power of civil society and its contribution to sustainable peace. From this

perspective, citizens, communities and civil society organizations are perceived as key actors in overcoming existing conflict lines, factionalism and organized violence. The prospect of recovery and peace-building in Somalia rests in large part on civil society, which can be a catalyst for social, political and economic change (Somali Civil society 2008). As part of society, local civil society can recognize and understand the underlying root causes of greed and grievance underpinning conflict (Murshed 2008). Similarly Varshney (2001) observes how the local CSOs can act as the seed of group formation, mobilization, communication and empowerment, which are necessary to induce peaceful social change.

Exploring the pivotal role of civil society (Harpviken 2004) argues that the bottom-up approach takes as its starting point the needs of those impacted by conflict, and looks to redress the root causes of war in each context. The same view on bottom up is also held by Interpeace (2006) who observes that bottom up approach for the protracted conflict resolution envisions to rebuilding relationships at all levels, restoring the people's trust and confidence in governance systems and rule of law, and providing the population with greater hope for the future. According to UN-HABITAT (2004) good governance is a vehicle for authorities, both state and local, private sector and media, together with civil society to participate, contribute, and articulate their interests and priorities, reconcile their differences, manage internal tensions and disputes, and exercise their political rights and civil liberties, as well as their obligations and responsibilities.

Violent conflict has left Somalia both economically and politically devastated. An extremely fragile state characterized by lawlessness and insecurity, the most basic needs of its citizens are not met. Currently 3.2 million Somalis are in need of humanitarian assistance. Despite on-going violence and conflict, civil society in

Somalia is active and community-level peace initiatives have been successful, where international peace initiatives have so far failed to root (Safer World 2010).

2.3.3 Challenges of conflict resolution in Somalia

From a humanitarian perspective, Somalia has been in a perpetual state of anarchy since the civil war began there in 1988 and has created an environment which facilitates the creation of issues such as piracy, a problem that extends the violence and disruption beyond Somalia's borders. In order to understand the conflict and the attempts made at resolving it, one must understand the history and major players that comprise the Somali Civil War. Beyond the occasional news headline or what has been portrayed in the media by films such as "Black Hawk Down," many citizens of Western societies know very little about the country officially known as the Somali Republic and of the complexities of the conflict, which has been going on there since 1988 (De Waal, 1998).

The internationally-recognized central government, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), exists in name but in reality lacks a national parliament and controls only small parts of Mogadishu.

In fact, Somalia is generally regarded in the academic and policy communities as an example of a "failed state" and a "stateless society," which means that the country is largely under control of Islamists, distinct regional states while the government is unable to collect taxes, pass laws, enforce regulations, or keep warlords under control even with outside intervention and aid. Outside of the central government's weak control, the rest of the regions are fairly autonomous and independent. Arguably, the most functional region, Somaliland, which used to be a British protectorate rather than an Italian colony like the rest of Somalia, views itself as an independent republic but lacks the formal recognition it needs from the international community to officially secede.

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Civil society organisations and members of the Somali Diaspora cut across the clan and/or regional divide and are found throughout Somalia.

The powerful Islamic Militants that have emerged from the conflict in south central Somalia have consistently became obstacle to peace in the country and the region The more weakened Somali civil society and the Somali Diaspora are caught up in the task of peace-building and state-building in an extremely insecure Somali political environment. They are also partly to blame for being partial and partly contributing to fuelling the war (Farah, I 2010).

The crisis manifests in many different forms: civil wars, the violation of human rights, the suppression of civil liberties, abject poverty, famine, epidemics, debt problems, population displacement, ecological disaster and disenfranchisement. Marginalized social groups, including women, children, the elderly, the economically destitute and ethnic minorities, bear the brunt (Human Rights Watch 2010).

Somalia's once-vibrant independent press and civil society have been decimated by violence and threats over the course of the past three years. At least six journalists were reportedly killed in 2009, some targeted for assassination and others killed by the stray gunfire that has claimed so many civilian lives. TFG and opposition forces alike have been implicated in threats directed at journalists who produce reporting they dislike (Human Rights Watch 2010).

In south central Somalia the challenge is daunting. An increase in violence since 2006 has deepened insecurity for everyone, undermined some positive civil society developments, stalled progress towards the formation of a stable government authority, and brought religiously-driven politics to the fore (Faiza Jama 2010)

One major challenge facing Somali civil society is the inherent contradiction that exists in the chosen path of sharing political power long clan lines and the fundamental rights of women to political representation.

In active conflict cases where civil society is weak, the challenge for outside actors is twofold: address the needs of communities impacted by conflict, and; work to develop civil society institutions that can serve as the foundation for sustainable peacebuilding. These may initially appear to be separate objectives, but can in reality constitute two sides of the same issue. Alleviating the immediate effects of conflicts may entail engaging the same parties and addressing the same issues that will likely manifest themselves during the reconciliation process. That is, the search for long-term sustainable solutions should be taken into consideration at an early stage, rather than through a series of ad-hoc arrangements (Harpviken and Kjellman 2004)

In the absence of government, however, Somali people have employed their own resources and traditions of conflict resolution to recreate security in many communities. Somali-led initiatives have succeeded in establishing political and administrative arrangements that in some places are proving to be stable. The northern polities of the Republic of Somaliland and the Puntland State of Somalia are evidence of what Somalis can achieve. Even in volatile south central Somalia, there has been evidence of the positive impact that Somali approaches to reconciliation and security management can have (Bradbury and Healy 2010).

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CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

According to Webster (1985) a research is to search or investigate exhaustively. It is a careful or diligent search, studious inquiry or examination especially investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws, it can also be the collection of information about a particular subject.

3.1   Research Design

This was a descriptive research designed to obtain information needed, using mainly qualitative and quantitative paradigms, through questionnaires, interviews and focused group discussion from the respondents. Qualitative interviews as described by Rubin (1995:31) will be utilized. The model of qualitative interviewing emphasizes active participation of the interviewer as well as giving the interviewee a voice. In combination with the above, individual topical interviews would be held (mouton, 2001)

3.2   Research population

A population is the aggregate or totality of objects or individuals having one or more characteristics in common that are interest to the researcher and where inferences are made (Amin, 2005). The population of this study was 2000 persons in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa towns. Out of which 5% were selected as a sample. The research has targeted 2000 persons who were in one way or another involved activities of civil society in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa towns of Gedo region, Somalia. Because of the researcher's prior extensive knowledge of the area and available limited time and resources, purposive sampling technique was used by the researcher to select 100 respondents from the following groups of active civil society groups;

1. Local Non-governmental Organization (LNGOs).

Women leaders.

Youth Leaders

Traditional elders and religious leaders.

Representatives from private sector and business community.

Local media

Intellectuals

2.3   Sample size

The researcher used purposive which is a non-probability sampling and does not involve the use of randomization. The different civil society actors were selected on the basis of their involvement in conflict resolution at localized level and prior knowledge of the researcher.

2 Key informants from 5 women and 5 youth groups, 6 private sectors, 2 media organizations, 2 professional associations, 3 NGOs in each of the two towns were selected purposively while 6 traditional clan elders were also selected from each of the targeted towns. This means that the sample size of the study were 100 respondents i.e. 20 women and 20 youth leaders, 24 private sector and business communities, 8 local media, 4 professional associations 12 Community Based Organizations / Non-Governmental Organizations and 12 traditional clan leaders.

The rationale of using of key informants was to gain access to available information. Focus discussion for Key informants were organized in manageable where the researcher was facilitating the discussion while posing structured questions.

2.4   Sample procedure

To determine the sample size for the study, several factors were considered; such as the variables, the type of research design, the method of data collection, analysis and the size of the accessible population (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1997). According to Gay (1981) 30 cases or more are required for descriptive studies, ten percent of the accessible population for experimental studies. At least 30 cases are required per research design that is questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussions. A The selection were done on purposive where target groups with the required characteristics are selected like the traditional clan leaders, women and youth leaders, NGOs, media, private sector and professional association.

3.5   Instruments

An instrument in a research study is a device used to measure the concept of interest in a research project. It is used to measure a concept of interest. An ideal

measuring instrument is one which results in measures that are relevant, accurate, objective, sensitive and efficient. Measures which are Physical and physiological have higher chance of success in attaining these goals than measures that are psychological and behavioral. Instruments can be observation scales, questionnaires or interview schedules (Anastasi, 1986).

To select the appropriate method for addressing the needs of the research questions, the researcher used questionnaires, structured interviews and Focus group discussion in the data collection.

Questionnaires were used for the data collection from the respondents. To solicit the necessary information the questionnaire was prepared likert scale form that gave the respondents multi choices of answers. The questionnaires were administered both by direct hand delivery and through emails with clear instructions of how to answer the questions.

Focus groups are a form of group interview that capitalizes on communication between research participants in order to generate data. Although group interviews are often used simply as a quick and convenient way to collect data from several people simultaneously, focus groups explicitly use group interaction as part of the method This means that instead of the researcher asking each person to respond to a question in turn, people are encouraged to talk to one another: asking questions, exchanging anecdotes and commenting on each other's experiences and points of view. The method is particularly useful for exploring people's knowledge and experiences and can be used to examine not only what people think but how they think and why they think that way. *(Kitzinger J, 1994).*

In the focus group discussion a group of 8 - 12 informants were organized to freely discuss issues of conflict in Gedo with the guidance and moderation of the researcher. Traditional elders, some members of the youth and women leaders and

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privates sectors in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa towns participated in the focus groups discussions. To further ascertain the validity of the information provided in the focus group discussion, some respondents were individually interviewed. The interviewees shaded more light on the issues raised during the focus groups discussions. Standardized questions were used for both the focus group discussions and individual interviews.

3.6   Validity and Reliability

Validity and reliability are two important concepts in the acceptability of the use of an instrument for research purposes. Validity refers to the appropriateness of the instrument while reliability refers to its consistency in measuring whatever it intends to measure (Amin E. Martin 2005). To test for validity and reliability, the instruments for the research such as the questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussions will be carefully prepared and assigned the right measurements. This has yielded numbers, objective and reliable data. The significance of the test was to ensure explicability or repeatability of the result. This process will be repeated by giving the test to another group of respondents at a different time and the results of the findings were the same (Joppe, 2000).

3.7   Data collection procedures

Data were collected from both secondary and primary sources. During literature review and conceptual stage the researcher used secondary data from authors who have literature related to the topic of the researcher. The researcher has also used primary data which was basically generated from the predetermined respondents of the study to. Data were collected interpreted, analyzed and presented to make it meaningful to the study.

3.8 Data Analysis

The data collected from the study was analyzed, coded and entered into a computer. The data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively, using analytical table, frequencies and percentages.

The frequencies and percentages were used to determine the number of sample respondents that participate in the study and the number that participated positively in the research for both the first and second objectives.

3.9 Ethical Consideration

The researcher developed good rapport and get consent from the respondent before interview. The researcher informed respondent that the interview is just for the purpose of academics and the information given will not be used against anyone and that the interviewee is at liberty to either participate or not. To avoid suspicion and misconception a letter of introduction was obtained from the university and the same was shown to the respondents.

3.10 Limitations of the Study

Due to limited time, resources and prevailing security situation, the researcher was in a position to visit and carry out the research in the two selected towns in Gedo.

Majority of the respondents especially traditional elders, women leaders and private sector were illiterate and express their views only through interviews. Other semi-literate respondents could not fill the questionnaire on their own without help from the researcher.

The study was not able to reach villages and pastoral or nomadic camps in the selected two districts in Gedo which compelled the researcher to limit the study in two towns only.

Due to the prevailing security conditions, the research was conducted in a very insecure and hostile environment. Because of this problem, fear of persecution from Islamist administration was so high among the respondents. Hence civil society actors gave the information in fearful and anonymous conditions. The researcher pledged to maximize confidentiality and professional ethics in all the information provided by the respondents.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

4.0   Introduction

This chapter is a presentation, interpretation and discussion of the field results. Results are presented in tables and in form of frequency counts and percentages. The results and discussion are central on the set objectives which were to: identify the magnitude of the conflict in Belet-Hawa and Garbaharrey towns of Gedo region; establish the contribution of the civil society in conflict resolution and sustainable peace-building in Belet-Hawa and Garbaharrey towns in Gedo Region and find out the challenges faced by civil society organizations in resolving resolution in Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa Districts of Gedo region.

4.1   Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The researcher needed to know the demographic distribution of respondents to help categorize the different active civil society groups in the region. The table indicates of the analysis of the collected and collated data for the study.

Table 4.1 Bio-data of the Respondents

Respondents	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Female	46	46
Male	54	54
Total	100	100
Civil society group		
Women group	20	20
Youth group	20	20
Local CBOs/NGOs	12	12
Private sector	24	24
Traditional elders	12	12
Media	8	8
Professional Association	4	4
Total	100	100
Education level		
None	18	18
Primary school leaver	42	42
Secondary school leaver	24	24
University graduate	16	16
Total	100	100

Source: Field Data 2010

Table 4.1 shows that the number of respondents interviewed were 100 out of which 46% were female while 54% were male. The respondents were representing different groups of the civil society i.e. women, youth, traditional

elders, NGOs, professional association, media and private sector. As table 4.1 indicates 18% of the respondents mainly from traditional elders and women groups were illiterate, while 42% of the people interviewed in this study had only primary education. Majority of the youth interviewed by the researcher had opportunity to go to only a primary education level and this was shocking because Gedo and Somalia in general may not have immediately needed skilled brain that is capable of transforming the conflict in peaceful way. A total of 60% of the civil society actors were either primary school leavers or illiterate. This indicates poor level of the capacity and exposure of the civil society actors. These poor capacities that exist among the civil society actors in Somalia further shows their inability to work together and provide an alternative way of resolving the intractable conflict in the country.

Table 4.2 Magnitude of the Conflict

Responses	Strongly agree		Agree		Strongly disagree		Disagree		Undecided Not sure		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
gross violations of human rights	85	85%	13	13%	2	0%	0	0%	0	0%	100	100%
Humanitarian assistance blocked	40	40%	60	60%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100%
unavailability of basic service increases conflict	76	76%	24	24%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100%
international actors are fueling the conflict	38	38%	46	46%	8	8%	6	6%	2	2%	100	100%
TFG unable to resolve the conflicts	34	34%	28	28%	10	10%	22	22%	60	6%	100	100%
Children recruited and schools closed	40	40%	32	32%	20	20%	8	8%	0	0%	100	100%

Source: Field data 2010

Table 4.2 shows that 85% (85) of the respondents strongly agreed that the violations of human rights of the civilian population have been recently increased. 13% of the respondents also agreed that the human rights violations have increased due to the current flare up. This means that 98% of the respondents confirmed existence of human right violation caused by the civil insecurity. Therefore, it is plausible to say that protection of human rights is one of the primary needs of the people in Gedo region, Somalia.

In table 4.2, 40% of the respondents strongly agreed that humanitarian assistance to the needy people in Gedo were consistently blocked by the different sides of the conflict. 60% of the members of civil society groups interviewed by the researcher or filled the questionnaire agreed that humanitarian assistance for poor and the most vulnerable were blocked by the parties in the conflict. This means that 100% of the respondents strongly or moderately agreed that humanitarian access to the needy shrinking and deteriorating.

Table 4.2.also indicates that 76% of the respondents strongly agreed that lack or extremely poor availability of basic services such as water, health care, education and shelter increased vulnerabilities, dependency of relief and conflict. 24% of the respondents also agreed that poor or unavailability of basic services has contributed conflict, vulnerabilities and dependency on external aid. Basing on table 4.2 100% of the respondents strongly or marginally agreed that lack of basic services leads to vulnerability, dependency of external aid from humanitarian agencies and competition. This means that the conflict in Gedo region has destroyed the basic services necessary for human survival and resilience. Therefore, transforming conflict in peaceful means may become impossible should the best ways of meeting the basic needs of the people are not put on the top of the peace agenda.

The table 4.2 shows that 38% of people interviewed strongly agreed that there are international actors who are fueling the current violent armed conflict while 46% of the respondents for the research have agreed existence of international actors involved in the local conflicts in Gedo. 8% of the respondents strongly disagreed while 6% marginally disagreed the involvement of international actors in the local conflicts. 2% of the respondents were undecided or not sure about involvement of international actors in the local conflicts.

As per table 4.2, 84% of the respondents either strongly or slightly agreed the existence of international actors who are fueling the conflicts in Gedo. Therefore, basing the findings of the table 4.2 the conflict in Gedo is like other parts of the country where multiple international actors are allegedly involved in the perpetuation of the conflict.

As per the findings of table 4.2 34% of the respondents strongly agreed that Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia has no the power and public legitimacy to resolve the conflict in Gedo. 28% also agreed the same while 22% disagreed. 10% of the respondents strongly disagreed or completely rejected that the TFG has loss the power and the legitimacy to resolve the conflict in Somalia and Gedo in particular.

Basing on the findings in table 4.2 the TFG even though there are people who support, the government is losing popularity as it failed to provide the badly needed services, protect civilian populations from predatory groups and resolve conflicts that exist in different areas of the country.

4.2.1 Magnitude of conflict

Responses	Strongly agree		Agree		Strongly disagree		Disagree		Undecided Not sure		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Somali customary laws (xeer) grossly violated	56	56%	36	32%	4	4%	6	6%	2	2%	100	100%
Declining role of traditional elders	62	62%	26	26%	4	4%	8	8%	0	0%	100	100%
Members of civil society organizations were killed	76	76%	16	16%	2	2%	6	6%	0	0%	100	100%
People lost hope for peace and stability	20	20%	16	16%	30	30%	32	32%	2	2%	100	100%
current conflict is the worst since 1991	72	72%	16	16%	4	4%	8	8%	0	0	100	100%

Source: Field data 2010

Table 4.2.1 shows that 40% of the respondents strongly agreed that schools closed as children are being recruited for the armed conflict. 32% of the

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respondents also agreed that schools were closed as a result of child recruitment, while 20% strongly disagreed or rejected the existence of child soldiering in Gedo. 8% of the respondents also disagreed the issues of school closure due to child enlistment for the armed conflict. In total 72% of the respondents strongly or marginally agreed that education is adversely affected by the recruitment of children to the hostilities. This is a violation against human rights and international humanitarian law. Basing on the findings in table 4.2 the issue of protection of human rights is coming out strongly as immediate need for people in Gedo.

Table 4.2.1 shows that 56% of the respondents strongly agreed that local Somali customary laws (xeer) governing the conduct of war were grossly violated by different sides of the armed conflict. 32% of the people targeted in the research also agreed that customary laws were breached by parties to the hostilities. 6% of the respondents strongly disagreed that customary laws were violated while 4% of the respondents also disagreed violations of customary laws whereas 2% were undecided or not sure about such breaches committed by the conflictants. As per the findings of this question, 88% of the respondents for the study strongly or slightly agreed that customary laws were grossly violated. This means that elders role as peace makers were undermined while the rights for protection of the vulnerable in areas affected by armed hostilities were disregarded.

According to Centre for Research and Dialogue (CRD 2007) the civil war has been the undermining of the *xeer* that protected vulnerable groups – *Birmageydo,* 'those who are spared from the spear'. This includes women, children, the elderly, titled elders and religious leaders, and peace delegates. Repeated violations of such codes have weakened the important function of traditional governance and resulted in the deaths of those who would normally be considered 'safe from harm'.

Table 4.2.1 also indicates that 62% of the people interviewed for the study strongly agreed that role of traditional elders towards mitigation and resolution of

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conflict is diminishing. 26% of the respondents also agreed that the role of traditional elders for mitigation and resolution of conflict is declining. However 4% and 8% of the respondents strongly or marginally disagreed that the role of traditional elders for conflict mitigation and resolution was declining. In total 88% of the interviewees strongly or marginally agreed that role traditional governance is diminishing. Basing on the findings in the table 2.0 above it is plausible to say that the repeated violations against the *Xeer* had decapacitated and disempowered the traditional governance systems that were instrumental not only for reducing the effects of the armed conflict but also resolving the conflict while rebuilding the confidence and mutual trust among the former rivals.

Table 4.2.1 also shows that 76% of the respondents strongly agreed that members of civil society organizations were targeted in the hostilities and killed. 16% of the interviewees agreed that members of civil society were killed. In summary 92% of the respondents agreed that members of civil society were executed while 8% of interviewees disagreed in different scale that civil society are killed by the parties in conflict.

Basing on the findings in the table 4.2.1 it is evident that the members of civil society organizations were killed to suppress or silence their voice against violations of human rights and local values or international principles concerning protection of civilian population.

Table 4.2.1 shows that 72% of the respondents strongly agreed that the current armed conflict is the worst since the eruption of the civil war in 1991. 16% of the respondent also agreed that the current war is the worst since 1991. 4% of the people interviewed in this study strongly disagree that conflict is worst while also 8% of the respondents disagreed that the current violent armed conflict. However 88% of the respondents strongly and slightly agreed that the armed violent conflict has reached worst ever since 1991.

Table 4.2.1 also indicates that 30% of the interviewees strongly disagreed that they lost hope for and stability in Gedo region and Somalia as whole. 32% of the

people interviewed in this research disagreed that they lost hope for peace and stability in the region. This means that 62% have strongly and slightly shown their hope for peaceful and stable Somalia. Therefore despite the existing challenges caused by the intractable conflict in the region, people still have strong hope and conviction for peace and tranquility in Somalia and Gedo in particular.

Table 4.3: Contribution of Civil Society

Response	Agree		Strongly agree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
CSO in Gedo provide humanitarian services	70	70%	22	22%	8	8%	0	0	100	100
CSOs in Gedo mediate and reconcile parties to conflict	46	46%	28	28%	26	26%	8	8%	100	100
CSOs use early warning to prevent conflict at local level	40	40%	24	24%	36	36%	10	10%	100	100
CSOs mobilize local communities to strengthen peace	26	26%	52	52%	14	14%	8	8%	100	100
CSOs advocate against human right violations.	38	38%	56	56%	6	6%		0%	100	100
CSOs resolve conflict at grass root level.	32	32%	40	40%	16	16%	12	12%	100	100
CSOs monitor development of insecurities to de-escalate violence	38	38%	52	52%	8	8%	2	2%	100	100
facilitate negotiation dialogue	38	38%	50	50%	8	8%	4	4%	100	100
CSOs build capacities of local authorities	40	40%	30	30%	14	14%	16	16%	100	100

Source: Field Data 2010.

Table 4.3 indicates that 70% of the respondents agreed that the civil society organizations in Gedo region provide humanitarian assistance to needy people. 22% of the interviewees strongly agreed that civil organizations in Gedo provide humanitarian assistance to the needy. 8% of the respondents disagree that civil society organizations in region provide humanitarian assistance to needy. In nutshell 92% of the people interviewed by the researcher marginally or strongly agreed that civil society organizations in Gedo region delivery humanitarian assistance to the people adversely affected by manmade and natural disasters.

Basing on the findings in the table 4.3 above civil society is instrumental in the provision of humanitarian services to the people living in the conflict affected areas.

In table 4.3 above 46% of the respondents agreed that civil society in Gedo mediate and reconcile parties to the conflict.26% of the respondents also strongly agreed that civil society in Gedo mediate and reconcile conflictants. However 28% of the respondents disagreed that civil society engages efforts for mediation and reconciliation to resolve conflicts. 8% of the interviewees strongly disagreed civil society mediates and reconciles different sides of the conflict. In summary 72% of the respondents agreed that one of the contributions of civil society is mediate and reconcile the conflictants whereas 32% of the respondents strongly or marginally disagreed the same. This means that though civil society is mediating and reconciling parties to the conflict, their capacities to resolve conflicts and build sustainable peace was still too limited to be felt as the effects of the conflict was overwhelming.

Table 4.3 shows 40% of the interviewees agreed that civil society in Gedo region provide early warning for conflict prevention at local level. 24% of the respodents strongly agreed that civil society make early warning for conflict prevention at local level while 36% disagreed the same. 10% of the respondents strongly disagreed civil society prevents local conflict through early warning.

In total 64% of the people participated in the study fairly or strongly agreed that civil society in Gedo provides early warning for localized conflict prevention while 36% of the respondents disagreed the contribution of civil society as far as early warning and conflict prevention is concerned.

Basing on the findings in table 4.3 it is evident that people view the capacities and the contribution of civil society organizations in Gedo differently. However, despite the fact that civil society organizations have limited capacities to contain the political and economic conflict, they disseminate information about possible flare ups and therefore instrumental as far as prevention and de-escalation of conflicts at local level are concerned.

In table 4.3, 52% of the respondents strongly agreed that civil society organizations in Gedo mobilize local communities to strengthen peace and co-existence among different clans. 26% of the respondents also agreed that civil society organizations do mobilize local people to resolve or prevent conflicts. However 14% of the people interviewed for the study disagreed the claim that civil society organizations in Gedo mobilize local communities to promote peaceful co-existence among different clans and groups in the region. Additionally 8% of the respondents strongly disagreed that civil society mobilizes local community to strengthen peace and co-existence among different groups.

Basing on the findings in the table 4.3 it was evident 78% of the respondents agreed that civil society organizations positively contribute peaceful co-existence among different groups and clans in the region through mobilization and sensitization. Therefore, one of the contributions of the civil society is mobilization of local communities aimed at promoting peace and security in the region. According to Barnes (2006) civil society actors have the potential to play an important role in raising awareness both of the costs of continued conflict and the opportunities and means to seek a way out through constructive engagement with opponents.

As per the finding of table 4.3, 56% of the respondents strongly agreed that civil society organizations in Gedo advocate against violations of human rights while 38% of the respondents somewhat agreed the same. Only 6% (6 persons) disagreed the fact that civil society advocate against violations of human rights. Therefore, civil society organizations in Gedo are defenders of human rights and the voice of the civilian population and the most vulnerable groups. Ironically most of the respondents strongly agreed that civil society organizations in Gedo region work with other international humanitarian organizations in order to effectively respond to the complex humanitarian crises in the region. For this reason, it is plausible to conclude that civil society organizations in Gedo are so dependent on the support of international partners and donors. Therefore, civil society organizations may not effectively resolve conflict or mitigate its effects without some support from external agencies.

However, in table 4.3 also indicates that 40% of the respondents strongly agreed that civil society organizations in Gedo are instrumental in resolving conflicts at grass root level. 32% of the people interviewed by the researcher also agreed that civil society organizations are important in conflict resolution at local level whereas 16% and 12% strong and slightly disagreed respectively. This means that even though crises mainly emanated from the intractable conflict compelled civil society to some extent depend on the technical and financial support from external agencies, they have the leverage and local connections that provide them the necessary value additions for their contribution towards localized conflict resolution and peace building.

As per table 4.3 another contribution of civil society actors in Gedo is monitoring of security and de-escalation of violence. 52% of the respondents strongly agreed that civil society in Gedo monitor development of insecurities and take proactive steps aimed at de-escalating violence. 38% of the respondents also agreed that civil society monitors insecurity and take necessary proactive steps to de-escalate the violence. In nutshell 90% of the interviewees agreed in different scales that civil society actors monitor causal factors of insecurities and

take proactive steps necessary for the de-escalation of violent conflict. This means that even though civil society organizations are very weak at national level they positively contribute conflict resolution at micro or localized level.

In the table 4.3, 50% of the respondents strongly agreed that civil society uses customary laws to facilitate negotiations and community dialogue aimed at building mutual trust. 38% of the respondents also agreed this contribution from civil society organizations while 12% either strongly or marginally disagreed that the civil society has the ability to use local traditional system to resolves conflicts. This means that one of the value additions of civil society is knowledge on local norms, values and mores. Therefore, active participation of civil society is very instrumental in the search for peace and stability in Somalia and Gedo region in particular.

The table 4.3 also indicates that 40% of the people participated in the study agreed that civil role is to build the capacities of local authorities. 30% of the interviewees strongly agreed that civil society capacity builds local authorities in Gedo region. 14% and 16% of the respondents also slightly or strongly disagreed respectively that civil society builds capacities of the local authorities. In nutshell 70% of the respondents agreed that civil society contribute the capacity development of local authorities while 30% disagreed that civil society contributes capacity development of the local authorities in Gedo region.

Basing on the findings in the table 4.3 civil society organization especially professional associations, local NGOs and private sectors have the potential to improve the capacities of local authorities in terms of inculcating good and accountable local governance. This also addresses the factors that cause and perpetuate armed conflict.

Table 4.4 Challenges Facing Civil Society in Gedo regions, Somalia

Responses	Strongly Agreed		Agreed		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Lack of leadership and anarchy	74	74%	18	18%	8	8%	0	0%	100	100
There is a conflict over resources	30	30%	42	42%	28	28%	0	0%	100	100
Human rights violations and impunity	54	54%	30	30%	8	8%	8	8%	100	100
Dependence on external Agencies.	32	32%	36	36%	20	20%	8	8%	100	100
Lack of coordination and networking	38	38%	48	48%	14	14%	0	0%	100	100
CSOs threatened, harassed or killed	58	58%	38	38%	4	4%	0	0%	100	100

Source: Field Data 2010.

In table 4.4 above 74% of the respondents strongly agreed that lack leadership, poor governance and anarchy are some of the main challenges facing the civil society in Gedo region. 18% of interviewees agreed that poor or lack of leadership, and anarchy is a challenge facing civil in Gedo while 8% of the respondents disagreed the existence of this challenge. As per the findings on table 4.4 above 92% of the respondents in the study agreed that lack of leadership, poor governance and anarchy was posing challenge to the work of the civil society. This means that achievements of the civil society would not bear fruits unless the problem of leadership failure, poor governance and anarchy at local and national are properly addressed and resolved.

In the table 4.4 above 30% of the respondents strongly agreed that competition over meager resources leads to vicious cycle of armed violence while 42% of the interviewees somewhat agreed the same. 28% of the respondents disagreed that competition over available scare resources leads to vicious cycle of violence. As per the findings of this question people have different understanding and interpretation about the cause of the current armed conflict. Because of the two decade long civil war, the conflict in Somalia has become an intractable characterized by unique multilayer and complexities. This was the reason why respondents viewed differently issue of competition over scarce resources as a challenge facing the civil society in Gedo region.

In the table 4.4, 54% of the respondents strongly agreed that there are violations of human rights and impunity which sustained the armed conflict in Gedo. 30% of the people interviewed for the research also agreed that there are violations of human right and impunity. 16% of the interviewees either strongly or slightly disagreed existence of human rights violations and impunity. In total 84% of the respondents were in the belief that impunity and violations

of human rights pose serious challenges as the same fuels the conflict and encourage criminal behaviors.

Basing on the finding on this question, it is rational to conclude that impunity is a challenge to peace and security in Gedo and Somalia general as the former warlords who committed crimes against humanity were rewarded for ministerial or other senior positions in the Transitional Federal government of Somalia. Others continuous to use killing, maiming and torturing of innocent civilians, force displacement, deny humanitarian aid to reach the needy other sort of violations against human rights and principles of the humanitarian law and as a ticket to powerful government, regional or factional positions.

4.4.1 Challenges facing civil society

Responses	Strongly Agreed		Agreed		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
External players in the conflict in Gedo	30	30%	54	54%	16	16%	0	0%	100	100
Top approaches to resolve conflict	40	40%	36	36%	18	18%	6	6%	100	100
Humanitarian organizations created luxurious life Nairobi	44	44%	50	50%	2	2%	4	4%	100	100
Groups uses religion for their interest	30	30%	46	46%	22	22%	2	2%	100	100
There is Proxy wars	48	48%	44	44%	8	8%	0	0%	100	100
Proliferation and abundance of small arms	40	40%	42	42%	14	14%	4	4%	100	100
unemployment fuels conflict	46	46%	43	43%	9	9%	2	2%	100	100

Source: Field data 2010

In the table 4.4.1, 58% of the respondents also strongly agreed that civil society organizations face continuous threats, harassment and killing by warring groups. Additionally 38% of the respondents agreed that civil society is threatened, harassed or killed by the conflictants. It is also notable that 4% of the respondents disagreed that civil society face threats, harassment or killing in consistent or regular manner.

Basing on the findings of this question, it is accurate to say that the civil society in Gedo region and other parts of south and central Somalia face formidable challenges in terms of threats, suppression, harassment or killing by the conflictants especially in the areas under control of the insurgents.

In another challenges faced by the civil society organizations in Gedo is dependency on humanitarian assistance from external agencies. The table 4.4.1 shows that 32% of the respondents strong agreed that dependency on humanitarian assistance from external agencies is a challenge as far as independency and sustainability of civil society is concerned. Furthermore 36% agreed the same while 28% either strongly or marginally disagreed. It is worthy to note that 4% of the respondents were undecided or rather not sure about how dependencies on the external agencies create challenges to the survival and sustainability of the civil society.

Lack of coordination and networking among different civil society groups and organization is a challenge. Table 4.4.1 shows that 38% of the respondents strongly agreed that lack of coordination and networking among different civil groups is a challenge while 48% of the interviewees also agreed the existence of the same challenge. However 14% of the respondents disagreed that there is challenge term lack of coordination and networking among different civil society

actors. In nutshell 86% of the members of the civil society who were interviewed by the researcher strongly or somewhat agreed that they lack proper coordination and networking among different civil society actors.

As shown in the table 4.4.1, 30% of the respondents strongly agreed that there are external player in the conflict in Gedo. Additionally 54% of the respondents agreed the conflict in Gedo has externally players. Ironically 16% of the interviewees disagreed that there are externally players actively involved in the conflict in Gedo region. Basing on the findings in the table 4.4.1 and observations of the researcher, it is evident that there are multiple players in the causes and perpetuation of the conflict in Gedo region. These conflict players range from national, regional and international level and each of the actors at different level contribute the conflict in different ways and means.

Top down approaches used for resolving conflict in Somalia are also challenges to civil society in the region. Table 4.4.1 indicates that 40 (40%) respondents strongly agreed that top down approaches used by the international community to resolve the conflict had posed challenges to the work of civil society in Gedo and in Somalia as whole. Additionally 36 (36%) interviewees agreed that the international community's top down approaches has complicated the search for peace and stability in Somalia and Gedo region in particular. On the other hand 18% of the interviews disagreed that top down approaches became problems rather than solutions. In total 76 (76%) out of 100 persons interviewed for this study agreed that top down approaches used by the international community was a problem whereas 24% out of 100 respondents disagreed top down approach as mentionable challenges.

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Basing on the findings in this question, it is clear that many national reconciliation meetings were held outside the country and squarely supported by the international community but in vain. It is also evident that top down approaches to resolve the conflict in the country had further complicated the situation while alienating the civil society to actively participate the state of affairs of the country and in Gedo region in particular. Therefore respondents recommended bottom up approach as a new strategy aimed at transforming the conflict in a peaceful way.

In the table 4.4.1, 44(44%) respondents strongly agreed that international humanitarian organizations have created a luxurious life in Nairobi hence unable or unwilling to resolve the conflicts in Gedo region and part of south and central Somalia. 50 (50%) respondents also agreed that international humanitarian organization have created a lavish life in Nairobi at expense of poor and war ravaged Somali people. In total 94 (94%) out of 100 persons interviewed by the researcher are in the belief that international humanitarian organizations including all embassies, donor and UN agencies, regional organizations, international NGOs and Somali national civil society organizations are based in Nairobi Kenya, while their presence inside Somalia is either nominal or inexistent while all the big decisions and resources are centralized at Nairobi level. Most of the Respondents (94%) believed that international humanitarian organizations are not Nairobi to serve the interest of the Somali people.

In discussion with both civil society in Gedo and some representatives from international humanitarian organizations based in Nairobi, the researcher found that some of expatriates working on the humanitarian programs for Somalia

CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

The purpose of the study was to establish the role of the civil society in conflict resolution at grass root levels in Garbaharrey and Belet-hawa towns of Gedo region, Somalia. The research objectives were; to identify the magnitude of the conflict, contributions of the civil society towards conflict resolution and challenges facing the civil society in Gedo region.

5.1 Summary of the findings

5.1.1 Magnitude of the conflict

The study found out that repeated violations of human rights had perpetuated the intractable conflict in Gedo region and other parts of south and central Somalia. 98 (98%) out of 100 respondents for the study agreed that persistent violations of human rights by different factions and groups involved in the armed hostilities perpetuated the conflict.

The study found out that armed groups were impediment to humanitarian assistance to the people in need of external help. The study has also established that lack or extremely poor availability of basic services necessary for human well being and survival has contributed existing vulnerability level and relief dependency.

It also found out that international actors are fueling the conflict in the country and Gedo region in particular. 84% of the 100 persons interviewed strongly or somewhat agreed that international actors are actively involved in the continuation of the armed violent conflict.

The study found out that the popularity of Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia was diminishing as it failed to provide the badly needed

services, protect civilian population and resolve existing conflicts in Gedo and other parts of the country.

Child recruitment and soldiering was a problem in Belet-Hawa and Garbaharrey towns. 72% of the respondents agreed that schools were closed as a result recruitment of children to armed groups. Hence child and human rights protection has came out an issue of priority in Gedo region.

The study also found out that local Somali customary laws (*xeer*) for armed conflict were consistently violated by all parties in the conflict and consequently role of traditional elders as a legitimate authority for conflict resolution is declining. The customary law (xeer) which protects vulnerable groups known as '*Birmageydo*' literally meaning 'those who are spared from spear' the including women, children, Elderly, respected traditional and religious leaders and peace delegates were also violated.

The study found out that the people live in appalling conditions as they were deprived basic services necessary human survival while members of civil society were targeted by different groups in the hostilities to silence their voice. 88% of the respondents agreed that current conflict has reached the worst ever since 1991. Interestingly despite the many security challenges in Gedo region, people still have hope for peace and stability. 62% of the respondents have shown their hope for peaceful and prosperous Somalia.

5.1.2 Contribution of Civil Society

The study found out that civil society organizations in Gedo region provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by manmade and natural disasters.

The study also discovered that Civil society was instrumental in conflict mediation and reconciliation, early warning and prevention of violence at localized or community level.

The study discovered that civil society raises awareness of the local people and hence strengthen peace and co-existence among various clans and groups. 78% of the respondents agreed that civil positively contributed peace through civic education and creation of public awareness.

The study revealed that civil society advocate against violations of human rights but very dependent on the support from the external humanitarian agencies, hence could not effectively work without the external support.

The study also found out that civil society monitors development of insecurity and take proactive steps to de-escalate the violence. 88% of the respondents agreed in different scales that civil society uses of the customary law (xeer) to facilitate negotiation and community dialogue aimed at building mutual trust and confidence between former rivals.

The study also discovered that civil society organizations such as professional associations and NGOs were instrumental in building capacities of local authorities to fulfill their obligations in transparent and accountable manner.

5.1.3 Challenges facing of Civil Society

The study revealed that lack of leadership and anarchy is one of the mainly challenge facing the civil society in Gedo region, Somalia, hence most of the achievements made by the civil society were reversed by vicious cycle of insecurity which was an overriding factor.

The study has also discovered that violations of human rights and impunity contributed the intractability of the conflict in Somalia. 84% of the respondents agreed that impunity has exacerbated the violence as it encourages criminality and continuation of conflict.

The study found out that civil society just like other civilian populations were living in constant fear as they were threatened, harassed and killed by warring groups especially the insurgents.

The study revealed that there were lack of proper coordination and networking system among different civil society actors, hence the voice of the civil society could not strongly be heard. Additionally international community's top down approaches aimed at resolving conflict in country has further alienated and weakened the role of civil society as far as bottom up approaches of conflict resolution are concerned.

The study found out that people were dissatisfied about the way international humanitarian agencies operate in Somalia. 94% of the respondents believed that International humanitarian organizations have created a luxurious life in Nairobi at the expense of the poor and needy Somali people in the Gedo and other parts of the country.

The study revealed that there were some groups who politicizing the region for their narrow selfish interests. These groups were radicalizing and indoctrinating adolescent to attain political mileage.

The study discovered that neighboring countries were fueling the conflict through proxy. 92 (92%) out of 100 respondents were in the belief that neighboring countries are supporting capacities for war rather peace in Gedo region and Somalia in general.

The study discovered that proliferation and abundance of small arms as well as high unemployment and lack of opportunities sustain the armed violence in Gedo region.

5.2 Conclusion

Considering the findings in the previous chapter the conflict in Somalia and Gedo in particular has reached two decades without viable solutions from internal actors and external conflict drivers. Violations of human rights including killing, maiming, torturing, deprivation of basic needs and denial of humanitarian assistance and destruction of social fabrics are some of injustice that haunt people in Gedo region and other parts south and central which call for collective efforts.

The top down approaches used by international community to contain the conflict in Somalia had consistently and miserably failed and must change now should the search for peaceful Somalia is sincerely to be attained. Rationality demands that no region or country in this globalized world can ever peacefully proper without active and innovative participation of its citizens and so is Gedo region and Somalia.

Civil society is a social capital and only existing indigenous force that can bring a synthesis for political, economic and social chance for Somali predicament.

The study has revealed that despite their many internal weaknesses and challenges civil society actors are instrumental in advocating against violations of human rights, provision of much needed humanitarian services to the people and resolution of conflict at grass root level. Therefore, it is important to note

that civil society actors have better understanding and leverage to access to communities where state has little or absolutely no contact.

Civil society actors including women, youth, traditional elders, professional associations, media, and religious leaders represent the majority of social groups and hence have the potential to positively contribute conflict transformation, state-building and sustainable peace from below. Strengthening the capacities of civil society not only to provide humanitarian services and resolve conflict at localized level, but also actively involving them in the search for peace and good governance is necessary.

As Catherine Barnes says many grassroots peace-builders in societies locked in protracted conflict promote people-to-people dialogue across the conflict divides to begin to shift entrenched conflict dynamics. One should note that empowering civil society means empowering the entire Somali civilian population to shape their destiny for themselves and their country too. Therefore, capacitated civil society actors in Somalia can play crucial roles in changing current situations by contributing peaceful resolution of the conflict while stimulating necessary positive change.

5.3 Recommendation

Basing on the findings of the study, the researcher recommends the following interventions that are necessary for the work of civil society in Gedo region, Somalia:

There are huge humanitarian needs in Gedo region and therefore, it is advisable for civil society organizations to continue the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people affected the by the complex emergency.

There are wide spread violations of human rights and impunity. To reverse this problem, it is the recommendation of the researcher that civil society organizations work with both local and international counterparts so that culprits would be eventually held accountable of their actions.

Civil society is weakened by their internal fragmentations, therefore the civil society organizations needs to promote collaboration among them to build strong networking and coordination systems. This will enable them to make tangible impact.

The civil society has limited capacities to effectively respond to the ever increasing humanitarian crises in Gedo and other parts of south and central Somalia. Therefore it is advisable for the International community to build capacities for civil society in Gedo region or south and central part of Somalia.

There were many top down attempts aimed at resolving the conflict in Somalia. Unfortunately all those attempted failed miserably, therefore, the international community needs to put the civil society at centre of state building process from below or the bottom up approach.

To stop the existing proxy wars that fuel local conflicts, the study recommends a common stabilization plan supported by all countries in the region and the international community.

Civil society in Somalia needs to learn from the other civil society organizations who contributed peace-building and democratic governance. Therefore, civil society in Gedo region and Somalia in general needs to build strategic alliances and networking with other civil society organizations in Africa other countries in the world that experienced armed conflict.

The study revealed that poverty, high unemployment and lack opportunities were challenges. To reverse this problem civil society organization must initiate programs that provide economic opportunities for youth.

In order to reduce the effects of the armed violence, civil society organizations need to increase their advocacy towards public mobilization for peace.

In order alleviate the suffering of the poor and the most vulnerable the civil society should negotiate with the sides of the conflict for them to allow the

passage of humanitarian assistance to the needy and to give the peace a chance.

Civil society organizations must initiates programs that promote inter-community dialogue and address the culture of violence.

To promote professionalism and principles of best practices Civil society needs develop a code of conduct.

5.4 Other areas of research

1. Role of women in conflict resolution

2. Conflict and Somali culture

3. Effects of conflict on natural environment in Somalia.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Letter of Introduction

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INSTITUTE OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING
### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Date: 27th May, 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Letter of Introduction.

This is to introduce **Abdullahi Mohammed Hersi** Reg. No. **MCR/10019/81/DF** a student pursuing a Master's Degree in Conflicts Resolution and Peace Building of Kampala International University from **September 2008** in the Institute of Open and Distance Learning Programme. He is writing his research on '**Civil Society in Conflict Resolution in Somalia: A Case Study of Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa Towns of Gedo Region, Somalia** . He is at the data collection stage and your Institution/ Organization has been chosen for his research study.

It will be appreciated if you can accord him the necessary assistance.

Thank you.

J.S. Owoeye, Ph.D
Director-IODL
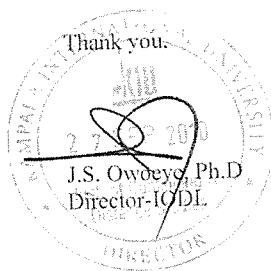
APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent,

I'm, Abdullahi Mohamed Hersi, a student of Kampala International University carrying out an academic research on the topic "Civil society in conflict Resolution at Garbaharrey and Belet-Hawa towns of Gedo region, Somalia". You have been randomly selected to participate in the study and are therefore kindly requested to provide an appropriate answer by either ticking the best option or give explanation where applicable. The answers provided will only be used for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

SECTION A

Biography of the respondents

Age: 20-30 ( )   30-40 ( )   40-50 ( )   50-60 ( )   over 60 ( )

Sex: male ( )   Female ( )   Marital status: married ( ) Not Married ( )

Educational Level: illiterate ( ) Semi Illiterate ( ) Primary school leaver ( )
Secondary school Leaver ( ) University graduate ( ) others ( )

Occupation.................................

Group: NGO ( ) Women ( ) Youth ( ) Business ( ) Traditional elder ( ) Media ( )
Local Politician ( )

SECTION B

Magnitude of the conflict

Responses	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided Not sure
Civil insecurity and gross violations of human rights have recently increased					
Humanitarian assistance blocked by different parties to the conflict.					
Lack or extremely poor availability of basic service like water, health care, education and shelters increases conflict					
Many international actors are fueling the conflict in the region.					
Transitional Federal Government has no power to resolve the conflict					
Many schools closed as children were recruited to engage the hostilities.					

Current violent conflicts have grossly violated Somali customary laws (xeer) for armed conflict.					
Role of traditional elders towards mitigation and resolution of conflict is diminishing.					
Members of civil society organizations were killed					

SECTION C

CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN GEDO TOWARDS CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE-BUILDING

Issue	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Undecided
Civil society organizations in Gedo provide humanitarian assistance to the people in need					
Civil society organizations in Gedo mediate and reconcile parties to conflict					
Civil society organizations in Gedo					

use early warning to prevent conflict at local level					
Civil society organizations in Gedo mobilize local communities to strengthen peace and co-existence					
Civil society organizations in Gedo advocate against human right violations.					
Civil society organizations in Gedo resolve conflict at grass root level.					
Civil society organizations in Gedo monitor insecurities and de-escalate violence					
civil society organizations in Gedo facilitate negotiation and inter community dialogue					

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Civil society organizations in Gedo building capacities of local authorities					

SECTION D

CHALLENGES FACING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN GEDO REGION

Issue	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Undecided
Lack of leadership, poor governance and anarchy					
Competition over meager resource and vicious cycle of violence					
Human rights violations and impunity					
Dependence on humanitarian assistance from external Agencies.					
Lack of coordination and networking among					

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different civil society groups.					
Civil society organizations are normally threated, harassed or killed by warring groups					
There are external players in the conflict in Gedo					
International community using top approaches to resolve conflict					
International Humanitarian organizations have created luxurious life Nairobi hence unable or unwilling to resolve conflicts.					
Groups seek power through politicizing religion for their narrow interest					
Neighbouring countries influence the conflict through proxy wars.					

Proliferation and abundance of small arms					
There is high unemployment lack of opportunities for youth					

Appendix 3: Structured Interview Guide

1. Civil insecurity and gross violations of human rights have recently increased

2. Lack or extremely poor availability of basic service like water, health care, education and shelters increases conflict

3. Who are the actors of the conflict in Gedo region?

4. Transitional Federal Government has no power to resolve the conflict

5. Many schools closed as children were recruited to engage the hostilities.

6. Members of civil society organizations face suppression harassment and killing.

7. Civil society provides humanitarian assistance to save lives.

8. Civil society prevent conflict and education the public to promote peace and   co-existence

9. Civil society organizations in Gedo facilitate negotiation and inter community dialogue and resolves conflict at grass root level.

10. Civil society builds capacities of local authorities

11. Lack of leadership, anarchy and rivalry perpetuate the conflict.

12. Civil society actors are dependents on the support from external agencies that are based in Nairobi.

13. Top down approaches undermined role of civil society and causes more conflicts.

14. Abundance of small arms and unemployment always trigger conflict

15. How religion is used to prevent or fuel conflict?

Appendix 4: Map of the Area of study
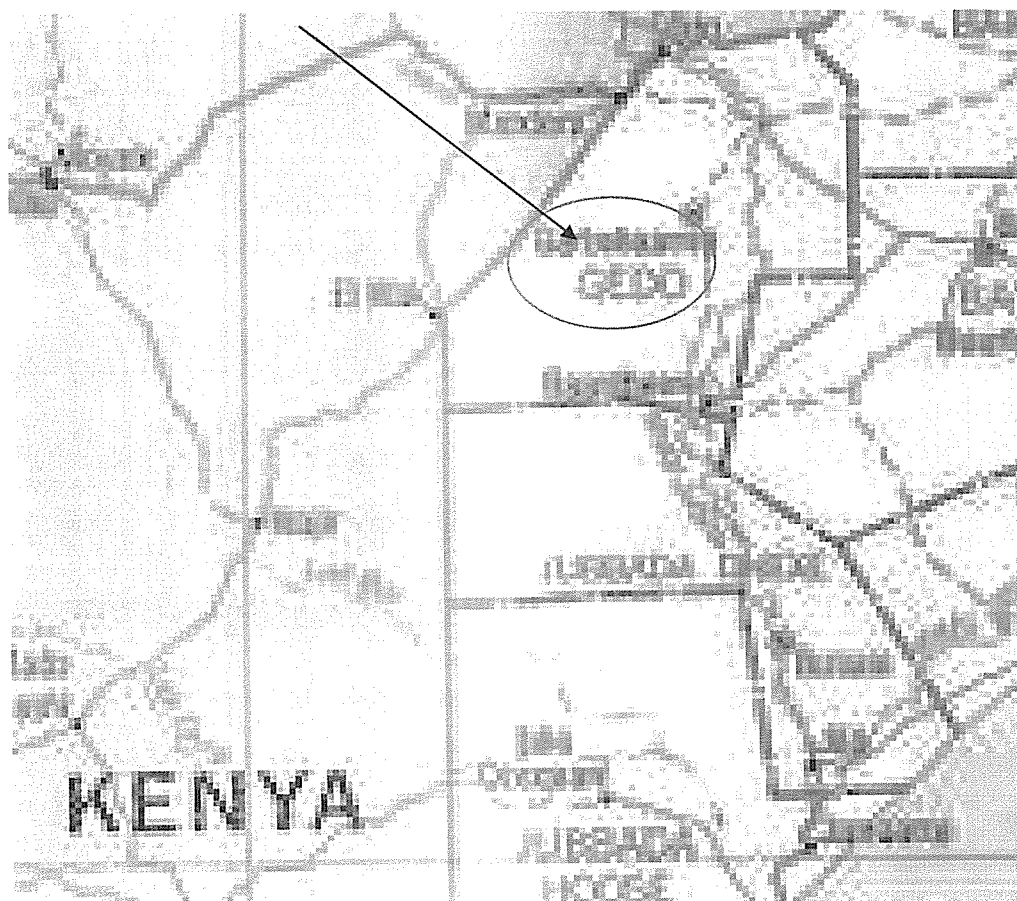
Appendix 5: Researcher's Curriculum Vitae

Abdullahi Mohamed Hersi

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Education

YEAR	INSTITUTION	AWARD
2008-2010	Kampala International University, Uganda	Master Degree in Conflict Resolution Peace Building (Candidate)
2008	Transcend Peace University, Austria	Advance Certificate in Conflict transformation
2006	Egerton University, Kenya	Bachelor Degree in Sociology and Philosophy
2002	Premese Africa Development Institute, Kenya	Diploma in community Based Development
1999	Cambridge International College, UK	Diploma in Human Resource Management

Work Experiences

YEAR	INSTITUTION	TITLE
May 2010 to date	Nomadic Assistance For Peace and Development (NAPAD)	Executive Director
December 2008-April 2010	United Nation Office for humanitarian Coordination (UNOCHA)	Humanitarian Affairs Analyst
March 2005-Dec 2008	Norwegian Church Aid	Program Team Leader

(NCA)

	In Gedo region, Somalia	
October 1995-Dec 2003	Emergency Pastoralist Assistance Group (EPAG)	Community Capacity Building and Training Coordinator

Additional Training

Strategic planning and result based program Management

Right Based approach to development

Fund and resource mobilization

Proposal development and project design.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Emergency Preparedness and disaster mitigation.

Safety and Security training

Financial management

Skills

Facilitation - Conflict Resolution and presentations skills

Community development and program management

Conflict resolution and Peace-building

Research and Data analysis

References

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