



# A S.T.A.N.D. UPDATE Be Informed

## **First Meeting!**

**Tuesday, Sept. 11 12:45-13:30 G.G.1**

## **STAND AT JCU**

STAND volunteers every Friday at the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center. Join us!

We meet at the H Bus stop at 9:00 am in Piazza Belli.

Joel Nafuma Refugee Center  
Via Napoli 58  
00184 Roma, Italy

## **The World Promised Never Again...So What About Right Now?**

### **CONFLICT IN SOMALIA**

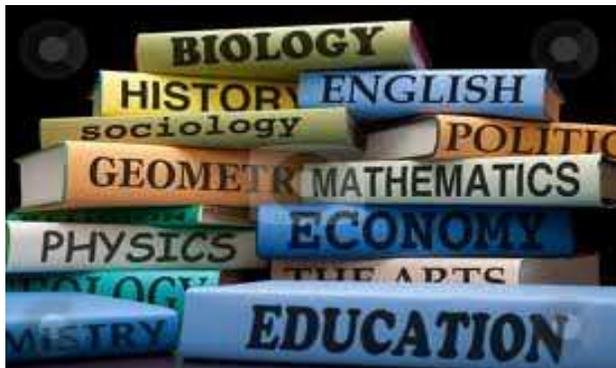
Al-Shabaad is an Islamist militant terrorist group that joined with Al-Qaeda earlier this year. It has declared to eradicate all Christians living in the Somali area, and enforces a strict Sharia Law code. Christians are a minority in Somalia, making up an estimated 1% of the population. Widespread human rights abuses by Al-Shabaad and lack of control by the transitional government have led to help from Ethiopian and Kenyan forces. Both forces have committed human rights abuses, including the targeting of Al-Shabaad civilian supporters. Instead of ending the annihilation ambitions of targeted groups, one abusive power has been substituted by another, and Al-Shabaad is still active in other areas.

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/03/28/somalia-pro-government-militias-executing-civilians>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18916319>

## HALF PRICE !!!

## TEXTBOOKS



September 3-5<sup>th</sup>

@ Tiber Campus 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

10 AM-12:30pm & 1:30 Pm-5:00

PM

Cash Only

Proceeds go to the fight against genocide, including supplying essentials to refugees in Rome at the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center.

### Who runs Somalia?





# A S.T.A.N.D. STORY

**Abdullahi is a 22-year-old from Somalia** who fled to escape war and persecution. During the two years I have spent volunteering at the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center, rarely have I come across someone who is as content with living in Italy as Abdullahi. In my experience many refugees arrive in Rome only to be met with disappointment. But I was surprised by Abdullahi's optimism and content with Italy. I first met him while handing out supplies one Friday morning, and was encouraged by his happy smile and gratefulness. "Where are you from?" I asked him curiously. He began to tell me the story of his journey and had only just gotten to Rome three months before.

Abdullahi is the face of what Refugee International called the world's worst humanitarian disaster, with over 2 million displaced people. However, this is only the latest stage in a civil war that has gripped the state since the last functional Somali regime collapsed in 1991. Opposing rebel movements have recently emerged in both the central and southern regions of Somalia, resulting in fighting that has displaced more than 270,000 people this year with no signs of abating.

"Somalia is no good," Abdullahi told me. With his broken English, he described to me the continuous fighting and violence. After his father had died, he lived with his mother and sisters, moving constantly in hopes of avoiding the fighting. He was especially at risk as a young man of being recruited by one of the several militant forces. When his sister was killed, money was pooled together to get him out of Somalia. He told me that it is usually men who leave, and if everything works out, the women will follow after. Since the border to Kenya was very difficult to get through, Abdullahi joined the flow of people into Sudan. Once in Sudan he took the terrible journey through the desert to reach Libya along with many others. I asked if the others were all from Somalia, and Abdullahi shook his head vigorously, saying, "Oh no. People were coming from Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, and Sudan. We all had problems, we all wanted to leave."

At first I was alarmed to hear about his travels through Sudan but he assured me that Libya was much more dangerous. Pointing to his skin, he told me that his dark complexion gave him many problems in a predominantly Arab nation. Abdullahi was arrested twice and held in prison for 3 months each time. According to estimates by the International Organization of Migration, about ten percent of Libya's population is sub-Saharan African migrants, who are increasingly becoming targets of violence. Multiple Human Rights organizations have reported residents are subject to attacks, beating, and often murder. From Tripoli, he was able to board a ship with hundreds of others that took the two day journey to Lampedusa with no food or water. It was during the summer, and Abdullahi brushes over the fact that several people died due to heat stroke.

In Rome, Abdullahi lives on the street. Many Somali refugees find themselves at the old embassy; an aging red four-story building that is still considered property of the Somali state, despite its abandonment. Abdullahi estimated that around 150 men live there, with eight or nine people sharing a room. When I asked why he didn't live there, he told me that it was mostly for those who had been deported back to Italy from other European countries. It was no matter for him. Despite the crowded conditions and the hardships he faces in Rome with finding employment, Abdullahi is incredibly grateful for the security Italy provides. "As long as I can walk outside freely whenever I want, I am happy." When I asked him where he was planning to go next, he said that he would stay in Italy for the rest of his life.

**S.T.A.N.D., the student-led division of the Genocide Intervention Network, envisions a world in which the international community protects civilians from genocidal violence and elected officials are held accountable for their actions, or inaction, in the face of genocide.**

**Born out of the fight to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, STAND is devoted to creating a sustainable student network that actively fights genocide wherever it may occur. The mission of the STAND chapter at JCU is to provide individuals and communities with a comprehensive understanding of the nature, limits and characteristics of genocide.**

**Email** [Stand@johncabot.edu](mailto:Stand@johncabot.edu)

**COUNTRIES ON GENOCIDE WATCH 2012:** South Sudan, Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, North Korea, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Columbia, China, Iraq, Iran, Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, Algeria, Philippines, Lebanon, India, Indonesia, South Africa, Russia, Israel/Palestine