Abukar Arman

Abukar Arman is the Somali Special Envoy to the United States. He was appointed on February 6th of this year by Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, following the President’s visit to the United States and to Columbus. Arman, a longtime resident of Columbus, has taught in Columbus City Schools, was a member of the executive committee of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio and of the board of the Ohio branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. He has written extensively about Somali issues and has been a frequent contributor to the Huffington Post.

David Shinn

David Shinn is an Adjunct Professor in the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University. Ambassador Shinn received his BA (1963), MA (1964), and PhD (1980) from George Washington University. He has a certificate in African studies from Northwestern University. He served for thirty-seven years in the US Foreign Service with assignments at embassies in Lebanon, Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritania, Cameroon, Sudan and as ambassador to Burkina Faso and Ethiopia. He has been teaching in the Elliott School since 2001 and serves on a number of boards of non-governmental organizations. An expert on the Horn of Africa, Dr. Shinn speaks at events around the world. He is the co-author of An Historical Dictionary of Ethiopia and has authored numerous articles and book chapters. He is working on a book concerning China-Africa relations. His research interests include China-Africa relations, East Africa and the Horn, terrorism, Islamic fundamentalism, conflict situations, U.S. policy in Africa, and the African brain drain.

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