



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Speakers Discuss The Somali Diaspora**

Columbus, Ohio is home to one of the larger Somali communities in the U.S. and it is one of three key U.S. cities featured in photos in the new book, *The Somali Diaspora: A Journey Away* (University Of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 2008).

The book's photographer, Abdi Roble, and writer, Doug Rutledge, both of the Somali Documentary Project, will discuss the Somali experience and issues related to refugees and human rights at a brownbag lunch session on Friday, April 3, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Hale Center, 153 W. 12th Ave., Martin Luther King Junior Lounge, Room 100. Their discussion will focus on the migration of Somali refugees from their homeland to a refugee camp in Kenya and to countries like Germany, Greece and Malta. They will also discuss the treatment of Somali refugees in Europe in relation to the Geneva Conventions and other international treaties.

Roble, a Columbus resident who immigrated to the United States from Somalia in 1989, has collaborated with Rutledge since 2003, to document the lives of Somali immigrants, both in the United States in Kenya's refugee camps created in the wake of the 1991 civil war in Somalia.

The duo's new book traces the journey of one family from life in a Kenyan refugee camp with more than 150,000 other Somalis to their new lives in the United States.

The OSU presentation is sponsored by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and open to the campus community and the public. Those attending are welcome to bring their own brown bag lunch.

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity was established in 2003 as a center for interdisciplinary research at The Ohio State University. The Kirwan Institute partners with people, communities, and institutions worldwide to think about, talk about, and act on race in ways that create and expand opportunity for all. For more information about the Kirwan Institute, go to:

<http://kirwaninstitute.org/>.

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