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Mediation and Governance in Fragile Contexts: Small Steps to Peace

DEKHA IBRAHIM ABDI & SIMON J. A. MASON

t last there is a book that provides practical and complementary non-Western and Western approaches and strategies for mediation to address and resolve violent ethnic and political conflicts. *Mediation and Governance in Fragile Contexts* should be on every peacemaker's and peace researcher's desk ... and in their briefcases and backpacks!'

—Christopher Moore, CDR Associates, author of The Mediation Process: Practical Strategies for Resolving Conflict

The result of a long collaboration between a Kenyan-Somali mediator and a Swiss scholar-practitioner, *Mediation and Governance in Fragile Contexts* introduces an innovative, practical approach to resolving an enduring issue: How can conflicts be resolved in polarized societies?

This approach breaks out of the insider/outsider dichotomy to develop a framework for achieving peace in the most challenging of contexts—a framework that unites outsider perspectives on mediation methodology with the rich experiences and reflections that only local peace practitioners can provide. The authors lay out the framework step by step, present case studies that show it in action, and clarify how local peace and security structures can act as a bridge between short-term mediation and long-term state-building efforts around the world.

Dekha Ibrahim Abdi's path took her from teaching at a rural Kenyan school to being renowned as a global peacemaker. In 2007, she received the Right Livelihood Award (often referred to as the Alternative Nobel Prize), which honors "those offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today." She died in 2011 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. **Simon J. A. Mason** is senior researcher and head of the Mediation Support Team at the Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich.

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