

Call For Papers for the 2012 OSA Annual Conference

Theme:

The State of the Oromo Struggle: Critical Investigations on the Challenges & Opportunities on How to Move Forward

Date: July 14 and 15, 2012

Venue: University of Minnesota

Objective

Most observers of the state of the Oromo struggle agree that there is a confusion and dissatisfaction in its progress, lack of unity of Oromo political organizations. We are observing the perils and potential consequences of lack of Oromo unity. There seems to be a consensus, that achievements have not matched expectations, and that internal conflicts have captured the primary focus if not actions. Although there are a few scholarly attempts to lend vision and solution to these problems, by and large, the topic has not been addressed as an OSA-theme, perhaps for fear of clash of ideas that may result from opening such a topic for a theme. While such a risk may indeed exist, the topic is too important to be completely avoided for fear of debates. It defeats the purpose of OSA if we indeed avoid discussing such critical issues and chose to remain in our comfort zone. OSA has risen to a stature both in quality and quantity where such apparently controversial issues can be discussed and assessed for the better of the society it serves. In fact, many very controversial topics have been presented at OSA in recent years, and the manner in which OSA audience debated is proof, that OSA has matured in its scholarly discourse, and that we have no more reason to be afraid of emotional and irrational outbursts. This proposed theme motivates OSA and its members to share their views on the state of the Oromo struggle, the challenges of lack of unity, a very important and timely agenda that needs to be discussed in a scholarly setting.

We expect a sober assessment of how far we come, where we are relative to our goals and

critical investigations of the challenges and opportunities on how to move forward to achieve the right for self determination of the Oromo people.

Please send your proposals and papers to me at abdurez@fas.harvard.edu on the following dates:

Abstract/proposal of topic: March 15, 2012

First draft of your paper: May 15, 2012

Final paper: June 15, 2012

Paper Presentation on conference dates: July 14-15, 2012

We do accept both individual and group papers & panels

Thank you,

Hamza Abdurezak, PhD

OSA President