



ANNUAL  
REPORT

2017



### **Vision**

A progressive Horn of Africa region served by informed, objective, and domestically produced evidence-based policy research and analysis that positively informs scholarship, policy, and practice regionally and globally.

### **Mission**

Contribute to informed, objective, homegrown, definitive research and analytical inquiry that shape national and institutional policies primarily in the Horn of Africa, and to a greater extent, the African continent and beyond.

**Photo and Infographics Credits:** Roselyne Omondi, Daniel Iberi, Abdulrahman Marjan, Shadia Asindua and Evans Ombisa

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**We are looking forward to the coming year with optimism and excitement for the opportunities available to the Institute ...**

As we mark the first year since our founding, we are proud of the many accomplishments registered in a very short time. This year, *inter alia*, we successfully conducted workshops and trainings, done research on the Institute's key thematic areas, held an important symposium on the Gulf crisis, published policy briefs for public and private consumption and grew our staff significantly. Notably, we published our first book entitled, *Globalization of Terrorism: from Sicariis, Assassins to Isis*. The book traces the origin and development of terrorism from antiquity to the modern age with implications for policy and practice.

We also expanded our collaborations and partnerships with both public and private

agencies and organizations, local as well as international. We are looking forward to the coming year with optimism and excitement for the opportunities available to the Institute and for a chance to implement and crystallize some of the critical ideas and programs envisioned in the foundations of the HORN Institute.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hassan Khannenje', written over a horizontal line.

**Hassan Khannenje, PhD**  
Director, The HORN Institute

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies is an independent, applied research and policy think tank based in Nairobi (Kenya). Its mission is to contribute to informed, objective, home-grown, definitive research, and analytical inquiry that shape national, regional, and international policies, primarily in the greater Horn of Africa region. Its vision is a progressive Horn of Africa region served by informed, objective, and domestically produced evidence-based policy, research, and analysis that positively informs scholarship, policy, and practice, regionally and globally. The Institute was established in 2017, and is one of Kenya's 53 think tanks.

The HORN Institute has five centers: defense and security; diplomacy and foreign relations; transnational crimes and strategic threats; governance, statecraft, and conflict management; and study of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization. The organization's key focus areas are summarized in Figure 1.

### About the HORN Institute



Illustration 1: About the HORN Institute

This report shines a spotlight on the HORN Institute's key achievements in 2017, as indicated in the following sections.

## 2.0 THE HORN INSTITUTE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

### a) A New Start, a Growing Work Force

The organization opened its doors in February 2017 with 6 members of staff: Emmanuel Kisiangani (PhD), Sheikh Ramadhan Aula, Ian Mwenda, Fauzia Hussein, Hawa Ali Nyakio, and Moses Kaloki. Dr Emmanuel Kisiangani joined the HORN Institute in March 2017 as the director. He is an expert in diplomacy, foreign relations, governance, statecraft, and international relations. Dr Kisiangani oversaw the formative months of the HORN Institute including the creation of its website. He left the organization in May 2017 to lecture at the University of Nairobi.

Hassan Khannenje (PhD) is the Institute's director since July 2017. A Fulbright scholar and an adjunct professor at Wayne State University (USA), Dr. Khannenje brings expertise in conflict resolution, public policy, security, diplomacy, and international relations. In addition to providing leadership, he has managed to substantially improve the HORN's capacity, enhanced the quality and its staff and research products, increased the Institute's networks, partnerships and collaborations and its media visibility and outreach. Since his inclusion in the team, the HORN Institute has seen tremendous growth - quantitatively and qualitatively - at the same time helping to shape and refine the strategic objectives and vision of the Institute.

Working closely with Dr. Khannenje is Sheikh Ramadhan Aula and Brig.- General (Rtd) George Kabugi. Sh. Aula is the Associate Director Center for the Study of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization. He is an expert in Sharia Law and he has done research, published, and conducted trainings in the area of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) in

the Horn of Africa. He has also participated in conferences and workshops in Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Djibouti, Panama among other countries.

Brig Gen (Rtd) George Kabugi is a Resident Fellow and acting Associate Director, Center for Defense and Security at the HORN Institute. Prior to joining the organization, he was a senior Kenyan military officer in the rank of a Brigadier General. During his time in the military, he served as a sector commander in South Sudan of UN forces, and a military attache to Ethiopia.

Roselyne Omondi joined the Institute in October 2017 and she heads the Research Department. She has a background in media, conflict journalism, terrorism reporting, communications, international development, and humanitarian aid. As the Associate Director, Research, Roselyne links the Research Department to other departments. In addition to building the capacity of staff at these departments, she helps develop articles, policy briefs, concept notes, grant proposals, monthly reports,



As evidenced by the increase in staff numbers, the organization grew in 2017. This growth in numbers translated to increased diversity of specialized knowledge, skill, and experience

and annual report. She is also a researcher, writer, and editor.

Daniel Iberi joined the Institute in June 2017 as a Strategic Communications Manager. Iberi drafts and implements the Institute's communications strategies to increase the communications capability and performance. He manages strategic communications and outreach programs and initiatives designed to proactively engage the Institute's partners and stakeholders. He also drafts, edits, and proofreads communication materials including The HORN Weekly newsletter, The HORN Monthly Bulletin, media taking points, press releases, public event announcements, infographics, concept notes, proposals, and articles. He oversees the monitoring of print and broadcast media for coverage that includes mention of the HORN Institute projects and experts.

Fauzia Hussein joined the Institution in February 2017 as a Strategic Communications Assistant. She assists in both internal and external communication. She also assists in drafting various documents, key among them, press releases, call sheets, and letters. She is also in charge of marketing of HORN products, updating the website, and managing the Institute's social media platforms.

Evans Ombisa joined the Institute in May as the graphic designer and publisher for the Institute. He has immense experience in the field of communication especially in design and publishing having previously worked for leading brands in the country. At HORN,

he develops graphics for the Institutes' products such as logos, web pages, manuals, infographics, brochures, signs, books, annual reports, and other communication materials.

Janice Sanya is a Research Intern and she joined the Institute in February 2017. She helps in building knowledge through research. She collects data, and conducts literature searches and reviews. She has written articles on various thematic areas and helped draft concept notes, proposals, letters, among other materials.

Shadia Asindua joined the Institute in June 2017 as the Administrative Secretary. She maintains the Institute's filing systems and records, attends a variety of meetings, prepares and compiles agenda packets and minutes. She also maintains a calendar of activities and events for the Institute.

Hilda Ngini joined the Institute in October 2017, as an Administrative Assistant. She is a senior at African Nazarene University and majors in peace and conflict studies. In addition to manning the organization's front office desk, Hilda supports other research department.

Josephat Maina joined the Institute in July 2017 as an Accountant. He is in charge of all financial transactions at the Institute. He also prepares the Institute's financial statements, end of year financial accounts, reports, as well as meeting all statutory requirements.

Moses Kaloki is the Institute resident caretaker. He oversees the management of the facility and grounds and he is available on-call and

emergency responsibilities when the need arises. Ruth Ayuma is the Institute's cateress, but also assists in sanitation.

## Former Staff Members

Ian Mwenda joined the Institute in February 2017 as a Research Assistant but left the Institution for further studies in December. Other members of staff who left the institution in 2017 include Sameera Mohammed (Programme Desk Intern) Hawa (Accountant), Angela Senaji (Administrative Assistant).

As evidenced by the increase in staff numbers, the organization grew in 2017. This growth in numbers translated to increased diversity of specialized knowledge, skill, and experience. Further, the Institute also takes pride in gender diversity that is evenly distributed. This, in turn, led to more tangible outputs (including research and published work), as indicated in the following section.

## b) Research and Publications

One of the results of the growth in staff numbers is the increase in number of published articles. These increased from 0 in February 2017, to more than 20 in December 2017, and these include:

- *Running Somalia with Hands Tied: Can President Farmajo Stabilize the Country? (on the challenges of rebuilding a fragile State)*
  - traces important political developments and challenges that face Somalia – since independence to the current state – underscoring areas President Farmajo needs to focus on in restoring the Somali state
- *The Changing Trends of Attacks by al-Shabaab in Kenya*
  - provides an analysis of al-Shabaab's rapidly changing strategies in response to Kenya's incursion into Somalia
- *Re-examining Kenya's Foreign Relations under the Uhuru Kenyatta government*
  - Examines the the centrality of trade in the country's foreign policy under president Uhuru Kenyatta.
- *Mogadishu Blast Fearsome, but not Entirely Unexpected'*
  - draws attention to the magnitude of the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 bomb attack and juxtaposes it with the trends across the globe
- *Mogadishu: When Checkpoints Don't Work'*
  - Examines the critical role of checkpoints in times of conflict and the implications when they fail
- *China's Military Base in Djibouti: What Does it mean for the Horn of Africa?*
  - analyses the relevance of Chinas increasing interest in the Horn of Africa
- *The Qatar Crisis and the Horn of Africa*
  - examines the effect of the Gulf crisis and continued hegemonic wars on Horn countries
- *The Complexities of the Laikipia Conflict*
  - looks at the multilayered nature of the conflict and how it can be addressed
- *Securing Kenya's LAPSSSET Projects*
  - identifies threats to key infrastructure projects that are central to Kenya's economic





wellbeing and proposes ways of protecting these projects

- *Takfir: The Anchor Ideology of Boko Haram*
- explores the foundations and exploitation of *Takfir*, the Boko Haram ideology and suggests counter narratives against the extremist ideology.
- *How Competing Interests Continue to Suffocate the Peace Process in South Sudan'*
- discusses how regional competing and conflicting interests especially within the frontline states are destroying the prospects of peace in South Sudan and what should be done about it.
- *Addressing Violent Extremism Through Economic Empowerment*
- draws on an example of entrepreneurship training program to illustrate how economic empowerment of young men and women can be used to mitigate their vulnerability to violent extremism
- *Ethnic Prejudice and Profiling Through Social Media'*
- looks at the social media space and its role in fanning ethnic prejudice and incitement in Kenya and suggesting ways of addressing its abuse.
- *Boni Enclave Campaign: Five years on' (about the progress Kenya's security forces have made in securing Boni Forest)*
- dissects the intricacies of the Boni Enclave Campaign, highlighting KDF setbacks challenges, and accomplishments in the endeavour to drive out members of the al-Shabaab from the forest.

Illustration 2: *The Globalization of Terrorism* book cover

- *Kenya's President Opens Country to All Africans*

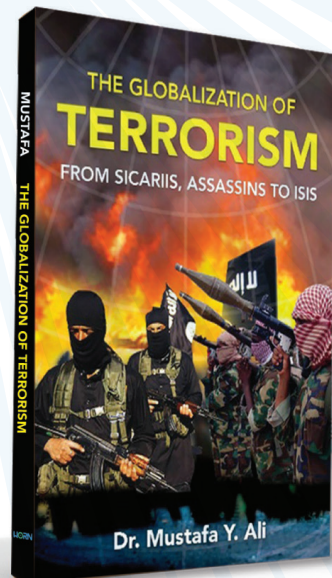
- examines the economic and security implications of No-visa policy for Africans visiting Kenya outside the port of entry. These, and other articles, can be accessed through the Institute's website.

A number of policy briefs were also developed. They include:

- *Kenya's Counter Terrorism and Security Strategies along the Kenya-Somali Border*
- *The Impact of Road Traffic Accidents on Individual, Familial, and National Levels*
- *The Ethnically Motivated Gang-Related Violence During General Elections in Kenya.*

These briefs are available on the Institute's website.

In addition to articles and policy briefs, the Institute also published a book on one of the main concerns of the present age, terrorism. The title of the book is *The Globalization of Terrorism*:



From *Sicarii, Assassins to ISIS* by Mustafa Yusuf Ali (PhD.), a Conflict Resolution and National Security expert based in Kenya. This must read book traces the origin and development of terrorism from antiquity to modern times while offering practical ideas for policy and practice. It was published in October by the HORN Institute.

Copies of the book are available at the HORN Institute offices, and at selected book stores in Nairobi (Kenya).

Center for the Study of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization is one of the two active centers at the HORN Institute. The Center commissioned a report titled, *Mapping Dynamics and Perceptions of Violent Extremism: A Study of Nature, Drivers and Perceptions of Muslim Women and Girls toward Violent Extremism in Kenya*. The lead researcher, Othman Mujahid (PhD), was

assisted by Sh. Ramadhan Aula. The report was edited by Mumo Nzau (PhD), Emmanuel Kisiangani (PhD), and Mustafa Ali (PhD). The findings of the report will help to shape policies on radicalization and de-radicalization, and counter-violent extremism in the Horn of Africa region.

### c) Concept Notes, Symposia, Workshops, Seminars, Training, and Conferences

#### Concept Notes

Several concept notes were written for symposia, seminars, workshops, training of trainers sessions, and an international conference on terrorism and violent extremism. With the exception of the conference, which will be held in April 2018, the other events have already been held successfully between July and November 2017.

The Institute developed a concept note that sought to address violence against children in *madrassas* in Kenya. Under the auspices of the HORN's Center for the Study of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization, the HORN Institute was invited to attend the *Fifth Forum of Global Network of Religion for Children (GNRC)* organized by Arigatou International, in Panama from 9 to 11 May 2017. The theme of the forum was *Ending Violence Against Children*. In Kenya and elsewhere, children attending *madrasa* are being subjected to immense "violence" in pursuit of flawless mastery of religious teachings.

The Center for the Study of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization seeks to engage



Illustration 3: The front cover of the MDPVE Survey findings report

in extensive research to: establish the extent children in *madrassas* are exposed to violence by carrying out a survey, establish the impact of violence against children in *madrassa* vis a vis recruitment into violent extremism; build capacity for *madrassa* teachers to handle children professionally in learning institutions; and develop a training manual and finally, build *madrassa* teachers' pedagogical skills. Modalities of conducting this research are under review.



*The Turkish deputy ambassador to Kenya (left) makes a contribution during the symposium on Qatar Crisis at the HORN Institute.*

### Symposium on Qatar Crisis

The HORN Institute held its inaugural symposium, *Qatar and the Gulf Crisis: Implications for Horn of Africa Countries* on 27 July 2017 at the HORN Institute's offices. In response to the Gulf Crisis that saw Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) impose sanctions against Qatar, the Institute through its Center for the Study of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs, organized a symposium to deliberate over the crisis. The symposium attracted participation of foreign embassies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the academia-

both local and international, National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), as well as members of the civil society. The symposium discussed implications of the crisis for Horn of Africa countries. The proceedings were encapsulated in a report detailing likely economic, military, and diplomatic effects for Horn of Africa countries and appropriate diplomatic strategies in responding to the crisis.

### Seminar on Violent extremism

In response to the recommendations of the aforementioned report (*Mapping Dynamics and Perceptions of Violent Extremism*), the HORN Institute held a seminar titled *Familiarization of the Complexities of Violent Extremism and Radicalization in Kenya* at the Institute's boardroom on 31 August 2017 to familiarize stakeholders on changing operational and youth recruitment tactics of al-Shabaab, drivers of violent extremism and radicalization, and narratives and counter narratives of violent extremism. Approaches employed by the HORN's affiliate organization, Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR) in

Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism (BRAVE) program were also discussed. The seminar attracted thirty participants drawn from UNDP, US Embassy, Jamia Mosque, National Counter Terrorism Center, National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Safer world, and Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI), among others.

The seminar was conducted by experts and experienced practitioners in radicalization, terrorism, and countering violent extremism. The speakers included:

- Sh Ramadhan Aula - *Islamic terminologies and terminologies used in violent extremism*
- Dr Mustafa Y. Ali - *Typologies of terrorism*
- Sh Ibrahim Lethome - *Drivers of violent extremism and narratives of countering violent extremism*
- Dr Othman Mujahid - *Warning signs of radicalization and de-radicalization strategies*



L-R: Brig(Rtd) Kabugi, Dr Mustafa, Dr Khannenje and Sh Ramadhan, all of the HORN Institute, during the seminar to appraise different stakeholders on countering narratives of violent extremists on 31 August 2017.

## Workshops

In June 2017, Center for the Study of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization was invited for a validation workshop on CVE material organized by the National Counter-Terrorism Center (NCTC). Ms Hawa Noor presented on recruitment methods by violent extremists while Prof. Hassan Mwakimako highlighted the key findings on social liberties facing mosques in the coast region of Kenya.

The University of Nairobi invited the Center for the Study of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization to make its contribution to a symposium organized by the University on *Strengthening Community Resilience against Radicalization and Violent Extremism*. Dr Mustafa Y. Ali and Dr Othman Mujahid discussed the impact of terrorism in the tourism sector, as well as de-radicalization process, respectively.

## Trainings

The Center for Defence and Security and Center for Diplomacy and Foreign Relations presented a lecture on *Regional Security vs. National Security: Resolving Border Conflicts to Events and Conferencing Cadet Officers* from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) at the Foreign Service Academy in Kenya School of Government (KSG) on 14 November 2017. The one-day training event involved 40 cadet officers.

Further, the HORN Institute organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) for 15 Muslim women, to help address issues of radicalization into violent extremism, disengagement, and the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees at the community level. The ToT was held between 26 and 28 November at Maanzoni

Lodge, Athi River (Kenya). The participants were drawn from Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Isiolo, Nairobi, Nyeri, and Lamu counties.

The objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop included: building capacity for women in preventing and countering radicalization and violent extremism; establishing a pool of women experts who will assist women colleagues in preventing and countering radicalization and violent extremism; establishing a team of women ToTs

to train vulnerable and affected women by radicalization into violent extremism and build their resilience; and building a team that will be able to identify and analyze radicalization issues and provide solutions.

Sh. Ramadhan Aula, Sh. Ibrahim Lethome, Dr. Mustafa Ali, Dr. Othman Mujahid, Maryam Kibunja, and Ustadha Batuli Nassir were the main facilitators in the training. The feedback demonstrated success, but also called for more of these trainings in various parts of the country.



(Left) A section of participants during one of the sessions. (Right) Dr Raya Suleiman (L) receives a certificate of participation from HORN Director, Dr Khannenje

## Conferencing

The HORN Institute was represented in the 5<sup>th</sup> GNRC Forum *Ending Violence Against Children: Faith Communities in Action*, held in Panama City, Panama on 9-11 May 2017. The forum discussed the challenges faced by children from human trafficking, sex abuse, gang violence, organized crimes to violent extremism. The forum concluded with declarations aimed at protecting children from any form of violence. There were 500 participants drawn from different faith-based organizations, government institutions, UN

organs, and NGOs who also took a united commitment to the declarations agreed upon during the forum.

In the same month, the Institute attended a forum on East Africa Civil Society Organizations Hub organized by the Global Center on Cooperative Security in conjunction with IGAD. The aim of this workshop was to explore how complementary initiatives can strengthen capacities and support information sharing among CSOs engaged in P/CVE in the Horn

of Africa. This included examining areas and methods of proposed collaboration, as well as mechanisms for CSO representation with the ICEPCVE, national governments and other regional and international bodies.

In July 2017, the HORN Institute, under the auspices of Center of the Study of Terrorism and Violent Extremism, was invited to a conference in Minna, Niger State (Nigeria) to share with Nigerian Muslim scholars and professionals the counter extremism narratives developed in the Horn of Africa region. This conference was organized by the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) to develop draft alternative narratives to counter Boko Haram narratives. To realize this objective, the Center invited the Institute to review the draft documents on counter narratives for Boko Haram.

The conference lasted five days: from 24 to 28 July 2017. Two drafts were tabled: *Moderation in Dialogue: An Alternative Narrative from Borno* by scholars from Maiduguri and *A Critical Discourse of BH's Ideology: Narratives and References* by Cordoba Foundation.

Between 30 October and 2 November 2017, the Institute participated in two regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) fora, in Djibouti and Ethiopia. Sh Ibrahim Lethome, Sh Ramadhan Aula, and Dr Mujahid made presentations on *Narratives and Counter-Narratives on Violent Extremism* at the Chamber of Commerce in Djibouti.

The main activity during this event was a workshop on amplifying the voices of Young African Leaders in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism. Experts associated with the Center for the Study of Terrorism, Radicalization and Violent

Extremism were invited to facilitate sessions on development of counter messaging and use of the media, pathways out of violent extremism, and developing counter narratives.

On 3 November, the Institute also participated in the regional youth forum through its affiliates themed *Youth in Action: Building Positive Inter and Intra-group Relations* in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). This paved way for a more inclusive summit from 14-23 November 2017 in Sagana, Kenya. The overall objective of the Regional Peace Programme (RPP), was to realize peaceful coexistence among communities and social groups in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region.

#### d) Review and Action Meetings

The HORN Institute organized a consultative meeting for Muslim Professionals in Kenya on 14 October 2017. The purpose of convening the meeting was to address the political situation in Kenya and the problems affecting the Muslim community in the country. During the meeting, the professionals shared their opinions and views on the issues and deliberated on how they could be addressed. As a result of the consultative meeting, HORN helped to mobilize Muslim professionals in Kenya, who subsequently gave a press release on the political situation in Kenya on the 21 October 2017 at Jamia Mosque Nairobi in which they urged political leaders, President Uhuru and former prime minister Raila Odinga, to take measures including dialogue to ensure the current crisis facing the country is urgently addressed.

They also appealed to political leaders to soften political rhetoric that is otherwise damaging to the Kenyan social fabric. The press release was



covered by all local media houses and some radio stations.

On 13 September 2017, Brig Gen (Rtd) Kabugi had a meeting with Lt Gen Robert Kibochi, the Commander, Kenya Defense Forces. They discussed issues of mutual interest and areas of cooperation including sharing of non-classified information that may enhance the Institute research on security. They discussed a wide range of topics covering the Somali theatre, geopolitical effect of Kenya's pull out of UN mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and the KDF position in the developing regional threat dynamics.

The Center for the Study of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization met with UNDP officials to discuss the *Strengthening Community Resilience against Radicalization and Violent Extremism* programme that ended in June 2017. The meeting discussed efficiency of the implementation of the programme and challenges faced. Dr Eman Yarrow, UNDP Programme Specialist, Peace Building, Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Programme discussed potential consultation projects for the HORN Institute.

On 28 September 2017, a meeting was held at the HORN boardroom to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding between Dr Halkano and HORN's affiliate, Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR) and possible fellowship with the HORN Institute. Dr Halkano Wario, a researcher with Volkswagen Foundation, had expressed intent to collaborate with HORN so that he can study its implementation of CVE through BRAVE especially its *Jihad for all* campaign. He explained that his team is organizing a

workshop to discuss the impact of CVE with senior implementing organizations in Kenya and he will get back with a plan of action detailing the role of HORN as a partner. He has since joined the HORN Institute as a religion and violent extremism expert.

In a meeting attended by Sh. Ibrahim Lethome, Sh. Ramadhan Aula, Dr. Hassan Khannenje, and Mr Abdullahi Boru, Dr Halkano explained his plan on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) workshop that will involve senior players in CVE. This will be a dialogue that leading organizations in CVE including communities would convene to appraise CVE strategies in Kenya.

A meeting with Africa Youth Trust was held on 19 October 2017. Youth Led Development is an AYT initiative that helps the youth and the community to incubate business ideas. Some of the programmes initiated include Democracy and Governance, Gender Empowerment, Peace and Security, Mentorship programme and Youth Economic Empowerment which started in Mombasa. The Institute and Africa Youth Trust settled on areas of collaboration especially in organizing activities and submitting joint applications for funding when opportunity arises.

The HORN Institute convened the Kenya Muslim Professionals Forum (KEMPPFO) with the objective of bringing together Muslim leaders and the Muslim voice in Kenya. Second, to give Muslims in Kenya a forum to share and discuss issues affecting them and come up with solutions. Third, to influence value-based legislation, policy and governance in the country. The meeting was held at the HORN Institute offices.

Overall, the new staff have helped streamline activities, establish, and improve existing systems, as well as the quality of HORN Institute's products. Efforts have also been made to make the organization's website more accessible to new and existing users. With the help of the Institute's graphic designer, the Institute provided its audience (online and offline) with engaging visuals, including different kinds of infographics. He also designed the organization's branded materials.

The HORN Institute also remained true to its mission to keep its target audience informed in 2017. In addition to the articles and website, the Institute organized and/or participated in several workshops, round table discussions, seminars, training of trainers sessions, and media engagements.

### e) Media and Social Media Engagements

The organization's director, Dr. Hassan Khannenje increased the Institute's visibility, while speaking about important issues facing countries in the Horn of Africa, on the *Standing on Guard*, on *Am Live* program, on NTV. The appearances took place on the 8, 15, 22, and 29 November 2017. Topics of discussion included the post-election security environment in Kenya, police response to political demonstrations, the rising terror threat of al-Shabaab and the political changes in Zimbabwe.

The program discussed the formation of National Resistance Movement and its potential shift towards political extremism that may negatively affect the country.



*Dr. Hassan Khannenje, the director, the HORN Institute, makes a point on AM Live, NTV on 8 November, 2017*

Dr Mustafa Y. Ali, on behalf of HORN, also appeared on the same show and discussed the security situation with regard the threat of violent extremism in Kenya where he mentioned the upcoming book the *Globalization of Terrorism* by the HORN Institute.

Dr Khannenje also joined other professionals, including the Kenya Muslims Professionals Forum (KMPF), to call for dialogue following the conclusion of Kenya's contested 2017 presidential elections.

This event, which was held at the Jamia Mosque Multipurpose Hall (Nairobi), received good coverage in local media. NTV, KTN, KBC, Horizon, and Citizen broadcasted their message during their daytime programming.

The press statement was read out by Dr Mustafa Y. Ali who also fielded questions from journalists. The statement highlighted the political challenges facing Kenya in October 2017, and the need to address them urgently





*KMPF calls for peace, dialogue*

before they “escalate into an immutable crisis.” Specifically, the forum appealed to President Uhuru and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga to take “positive steps that ensure Kenya does not slip down the path of anarchy.”

On 28 September 2017, the HORN Institute took part in an interview along with Media Capital on countering violent extremism and the role of the state documentary. Sh. Ramadhan Aula, Dr. Hassan Kanneje and Dr Mustafa Y Ali took part in the question and answer sessions.



*Dr Mustafa Y. Ali, chair the HORN Institute, commenting on the UNGA Meeting on CGTN on 28 November, 2017*

On the same day, Dr Mustafa Y. Ali appeared on Chinese Global Television Network following his attendance of the 72 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Meeting in New York, USA. In commenting on the issues raised by African leaders during the meeting, Dr Mustafa noted the disturbing fact that UN has not reformed (since 1946) to respond to incipient issues affecting the world.

On 17 July 2017, under the auspices of the Institute’s Center for Terrorism and Radicalization and its affiliate CSCR’s, the Institute held a *Lenga Ugaidi Na Talanta* competition. *Lenga Ugaidi Na Talanta*, was



**The Three Main Curses of South Sudan**

Access to land, safe water, and oil are major causes of conflict in South Sudan. Since 2011, when the country... [Read More...](#)

**Horn of Africa Feels Geopolitical Impact of Qatar Crisis**

The oil-rich Arabian Peninsula states have long represented a beacon of stability in the tumultuous Middle... [Read More](#)

**Somaliand hopes election will bolster case for independence**

When Somaliand elects its new president on Monday voters will be engaging in a rare... [Read More](#)

**“Ethnic prejudice and profiling is a major threat to national security, national integrity and survival.”**

Brig Gen (Rtd) George G Kabugi  
Ag. Associate Director,  
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**HORN** INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

*Illustration 4: A snippet of the HORN Weekly newsletter published on 14 November 2017*

*Illustration 5: Infographic on ethnic prejudice*

a competition of short films on countering terrorism by the youth under 35 years. The competition sought to promote the fight against al-Shabaab and other VEOs through film and storytelling. The organization invited youth to take part in the competition guided by three broad themes: youth responsibility in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), the changing face of terrorism, and faith based institutions and communities. The competition attracted over 300 submissions from around Kenya.

In 2017, the HORN Institute also employed its social media presence, on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube, to reach its online audience. Using its twitter handle @horninstitute, the Institute reached thousands of individuals (based on profile visits) in 2017. From zero followers in March, it now has 240 followers. The tweets are usually about topical issues relating to politics, security, conflict, and peace-making. The texts are complemented with visuals, such as infographics, videos, and pictures.

In December 2017, Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali was interviewed by Al-Jazeera and the main topic of the interview was ethnicity in Kenya. He talked about ways of addressing negative ethnicization of Kenyan politics that have, on various occasions, brought the country to the brink of civil and ethnic strife.

On 13 November 2017, the HORN Institute also signed up with the NGO directory. Inclusion in this annual compilation of not-for-profit organizations that work in Kenya, and the Eastern Africa, will increase the Institute’s visibility. The organization will be included in the 2018 publication. Additionally, the Institute also completed the ISS think tank



**“The barbaric attack points to a trend in which areas known for vibrant activity and thriving businesses are targeted.”**

African Union Mission in Somalia  
Mogadishu Safari Hotel bombing  
15<sup>th</sup> October, 2017

[info@horninstitute.org](mailto:info@horninstitute.org)  
[www.horninstitute.org](http://www.horninstitute.org)  
[@HISS2017](https://www.facebook.com/HISS2017)  
[@Horninstitute](https://twitter.com/Horninstitute)



*Illustration 6: Infographic on the aftermath of the 14 October 2017 blast in Mogadishu (Somalia)*

survey between 28 and 30 November 2017, nominating the organization. It is expected that the organization will be included in the 2018 think tank listing.

### f) Maintaining Objectivity

The HORN Institute relies on research to maintain its objectivity and credibility. Through interaction with others, seminars, workshops, roundtable discussions, social media, and mainstream media, the Institute accesses information, which it uses to improve its work.

One of the challenges of staying up-to-date with developments in the areas of interest to the HORN Institute has been the remote access to online libraries. To help overcome this, the members of staff, with the guidance of Dr. Khannenje, signed up with the American Resource Center (ARC), in November. Due to funding limitations affecting ARC, remote access is no longer possible, but members will



*Illustration 7: Infographic on social media*

have access to online resources on site. They can also borrow a limited number of books.

Conferencing is another way to stay up-to-date. The HORN Institute is organizing an international conference on terrorism. The theme of the conference is *Changing Dynamics of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa: Towards Effective Prevention and Counter-Terrorism Strategies*. The conference, which will be held in April 2018, will bring together researchers, security agents, religious scholars, public policy designers, community leaders, terrorism and counter terrorism scholars, among others, to discuss trends and experiences in terrorism and related areas. Knowledge gained this way will inform the Institutes work in 2018, and after that. Conference planning has begun.

Further, the Institute is developing research tools and standards to be used by HORN Institute researchers, fellows, and learners. This is to ensure that the Institute's work is continuously informed by rigours of scientific methodology inline with internationally practiced standards.

### g) Home-grown Solutions

The HORN Institute strives to tap and grow local expertise and scholarship. All the staff at the HORN are locals. Although the organization partners with governmental and non-governmental organizations (some of which are foreign-led or foreign-funded) to achieve some of its goals, the HORN Institute focuses on resolving local problems with local solutions.

At the end of October, and the beginning of November, Sh Ramadhan Aula, the Associate

Director of the Center for Study of Terrorism travelled to Djibouti, to participate in an Inter-governmental Authority of Development (IGAD) conference on the use of the media in countering violent extremism. In addition to making a presentation on countering narratives of violent extremists, Sh. Ramadhan also attended a regional youth forum on peaceful co-existence among communities and social groups in the Great lakes and Horn of Africa regions, in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

### h) Outreach, New Partnerships

The HORN Institute has partnered with, among others, the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Foreign Affairs Academy (FAA), the diplomatic community, and media organizations to achieve its mission and vision.

In June, the HORN Institute collaborated with CSCR and others to implement *Strengthening Community's Resilience against Radicalization and Violent Extremism* programmatic activities that took place in Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Tana River and Nairobi. This programme was led and coordinated by the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), in conjunction with UNDP, and was implemented by CSCR through its flagship BRAVE programme. The key objective of these community awareness outreach meetings was to raise awareness on the effects of Violent Extremism (VE) and radicalization on women and youth in targeted counties and to enlighten them on early warning signs.

In August, the Institute was invited to participate in Turkish Embassy event and a symposium on terrorism at La Mada hotel (Nairobi). Dr. Khannenje also attended the

Turkish Victory Day event at the invitation of Turkish ambassador at the ambassador's residence where the Turkish mission expressed continued interest in working with the HORN Institute.

On 17 August 2017, the Serbian Ambassador to Kenya, H. E. Dragan Zupanjevac, paid a courtesy call to the Institute's offices. Through the interaction, the ambassador introduced HORN management to two leading think tanks – The Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development and Institute for International Politics and Economy - in Belgrade with similar interests and pledged his support in collaborative efforts. Dr Hassan Khannenje, Sh. Ramadhan Aula, and Brig George Kabugi attended the meeting.

In November 2017, the director of the HORN Institute attended a luncheon hosted by the Hans Seidel foundation at the Horizon. He made contact with the Germany ambassador, the head of the Hans Seidel Foundation and cabinet secretary for Environment, Prof. Judy Wakhungu. Notably, the director established a relationship with the Alfred Dube, director, Institute for Security Studies (ISS) with whom they agreed to work together on issues of mutual interest affecting the Horn of Africa

On 30 November, the organization hosted the *Haki Amani* Board an advisory committee on cohesion, peace and conflict resolution in the executive office of the President. The Board developed a strategy for healing and reconciliation following the 2017 general elections in Kenya.



*Haki Amani pose for a photograph with the HORN director (third left) and HORN chair (right) at HORN offices, Nairobi*



*H.E Allison Chartres with the HORN Institute top management exploring the areas of collaboration and issues of common interest in the Horn of Africa in December 2017*

The Institute also met with officials from different embassies and high commissions. Some of them visited the Institute, others extended invitations to the Institute's staff. Timur Stovba, a counsellor with the Embassy of the Russian Federation, visited the HORN Institute in November and discussed with director and senior staff the possible areas of collaboration with the HORN Institute. H.E. Alison Chartres, Australia's High Commissioner to Kenya, and Trevor Analo, the Commission's political and economic research officer visited the Institute in December. The discussion included, among other issues, future collaboration on areas of mutual interest, such as CVE. Earlier in the year,

the director met officials from the Embassy of Turkey in Kenya, including ambassador Eke Deniz. The Institute has since established a working relationship with the Turkish mission to Kenya through its ambassador.

On 13 December 2017, the HORN Institute hosted H. E Allison Chartres, Australian High Commission to Kenya. Both parties explored areas of collaboration and issues of common interest within the Horn of Africa region. H. E. Chartres, who also represents her country to Tanzania, Somalia, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi, serves as her country's permanent representative to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



*The HORN Institute family joined other wellwishers at Good Hope Markazil Banatil Islamiya children's home during the International Day of Prayer and Action for Children*

### **i) Staying on track**

To ensure that the goals of the CVE programmes that the HORN Institute implements through its partner organizations are achieved, the Institute developed a survey which will be used to evaluate the successes and limitations of activities undertaken by the BRAVE program. The results (to be available in 2018) will be used

to improve the programmatic activities and strategic plan. Another survey, was developed and administered at the Institute in November, to gather feedback on the organization's website. The information has been used to make the website more accessible and interactive.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Institute will mark its first anniversary in February 2018. On this occasion, the Institute will launch the annual report for 2017.

The Institute plans to hold an international conference on terrorism and violent extremism, in April 2018 in Nairobi (Kenya). The theme of the conference is *The Changing Dynamics of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa: Towards Effective Prevention and Counter-Terrorism Strategies*.

In 2018, the HORN Institute will nurture the partnerships it established in 2017. It will also seek to form new ones. The Institute also looks to producing better products by the end 2018. To this end, the HORN Institute will, in addition to its HORN weekly newsletter, have a monthly bulletin called *The HORN Bulletin*. The first one will be available in the first quarter of 2018. Also in the offing is a journal, the *HORN Quarterly*. The expectation is that the first edition will be available by the end of 2018. The HORN Institute will also increase its social media activity across all its platforms, to keep existing followers, and engage new ones.



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### International Conference on Terrorism and Violent Extremism

The HORN Institute will organize a conference, to be held on 24-26 April 2018, at the Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club in Nairobi (Kenya). The theme of the conference is ***The Changing Dynamics of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa: Towards Effective Prevention and Counter-Terrorism Strategies.***

The conference will bring together researchers, practitioners, public policy makers, scholars, government officials, and terrorism and counter-terrorism officials from over 25 countries to exchange information, ideas, and experiences in combating the scourge of terror.

The Institute plans to publish two book volumes that will contain papers presented at the conference. The papers will deepen the critical knowledge on terrorism and violent extremism as well as promote enlightened discussion on these areas for effective policy making.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

The Changing Dynamics of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa:  
**Towards Effective Prevention and Counter-Terrorism Strategies**

24-26 APRIL 2018 | NAIROBI, KENYA

**HORN** INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES  
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The poster features a world map with various regions highlighted in shades of orange and red, set against a blue background with a grid pattern. Below the map, the conference dates and location are listed. The HORN logo is prominently displayed, along with the institute's name and tagline. Contact information, including a physical address, phone numbers, website, and social media handles, is provided at the bottom. The bottom of the poster shows a photograph of a city skyline, likely Nairobi.



*Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBIGC) representatives in a meeting with the HORN Institute leadership on possible areas of collaboration in September 2017*



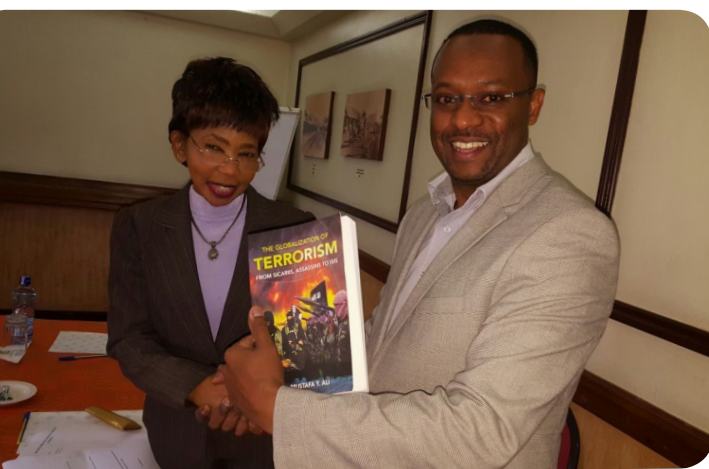
*Members of the HORN Institute share a light moment with senior Al Jazeera journalists after an interview with Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali*



*A section of the audience during the launch of the MDPVE Report.*



*Fatma Saman, a BRAVE member, making her presentation during the launch of the Mapping Dynamics and Perceptions of Violent Extremism Report in June 2017 at the HORN Institute.*



*Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali (left) presents his autographed book to Prof. Amb. Maria Nzomo, director, Institute of Diplomacy & International Studies, University of Nairobi.*



*Dr. Hassan Khannenje, the HORN Institute director, during an interview with a journalist from Voice of America (VOA)*



Sh. Ramadhan Aula, Associate Director Center for the Study of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization, making his presentation at the Minna Conference in Nigeria



Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, the HORN Institute chairman, during an interview with Capital Media at the HORN Institute.



Sh. Ibrahim Lethome, making a presentation during a seminar on Familiarization of the Complexities of Violent Extremism and Radicalization in Kenya held at the HORN Institute



A section of the HORN Institute staff members (from left) Hawa, Ian, Janice, Angela, Hashim, Sh. Ramadhan, Fauzia, Kaloki, and Dr Kisiangani



Some of the staff members take a group photo during the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children 2017 at Good Hope Orphanage Center in Kariobangi, Nairobi



Timur Stovba (second from left), a consul with the Embassy of the Russian Federation, with the HORN Institute management team



# **HORN** | INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES


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