



World Refugee Day 2015: 'Open the home of peace'

Mogadishu/Somalia 9 September 2015 – 'Open the home of peace' is the title of this year's winning artwork submitted to UNHCR Somalia for a competition launched to mark the World Refugee Day.

The picture by Somali artist Abdulahi Abdulkadir Osman expresses hope and humanity for the people of Somalia and as a global message from the artist. Abdulahi Abdulkadir Osman (18) is a refugee since he was 12 years old, and today lives in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

In the context of Somalia – one of the world's largest and most protracted displacement situations - more than one million Somalis continue to live as refugees in the region, in addition to an estimated 1.1 million people displaced within their own country.

Today's announcement completes a process starting on World Refugee Day (20 June) when the competition was launched by UNHCR Somalia to recognize the resilience and plight of people in displacement. Through the Art Competition, UNHCR encouraged all interested artists, writers, and creative minds to voice and depict the theme '**Home**' reflecting on '**Durable Solutions to End the Displacement of the People of Somalia**'.

Among the artworks submitted are contributions from Somali refugees in Ethiopia and Kenya, as well as from within Somalia. UNHCR Somalia and the panel members have reviewed the submissions and are pleased to announce the following winners:

1st prize: Abdulahi Abdulkadir Osman: Open the home of peace (painting)

2nd prize: Halima Abdulkadir Osman: The sad memory of the explosion of my home (painting)

3rd prize: Abdirahim Abdulkadir Osman: Protecting the peace is saving the home (painting)

The three winners are all members of a Somali refugee family based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where they live in asylum since war forced them to flee Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

The review panel members were:

Abdi Aynte - Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Somalia

Mohamed Ali Nur 'Americo' – former Somali Ambassador to Kenya

Yussuf Hassan – Chief Editor, Xaqiiqa Times, Somalia

Louise Tunbridge – Programme Manager, Radio Ergo, Kenya

Bushra Halepota – Acting Representative, UNHCR Somalia

The winners have been contacted directly by UNHCR Somalia. Interviews with Acting Representative Bushra Halepota and the awarded artists can be arranged for by UNHCR Somalia upon interest.

For more information and media inquiries:

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