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TERRORISM THREAT - MYTH OR REALITY?

Professor Ahmed I. Samatar, a prominent expert on African affairs visiting Melbourne from the USA, and Melbourne Barrister Brian Walter, SC/QC will conduct a seminar on: The Challenge of Terrorism - Myth or Reality?

Every society has to face the challenges of their era and every era has its own unique set of challenges. Every civilisation and faith in history has faced their own set of challenges. Jesus confronted the evils of his age and similarly, Mohammed struggled against the values of the Kuresh tribe in the Arabia of his time - called in Arabic the *jahiliya* or time of ignorance. Is terrorism really the challenge of our era - or it is that just hype? Does terrorism really move from South-East Asia to the Horn of Africa, or is that just a media fantasy? Our speakers will discuss these points.



Professor Ahmed I. Samatar is James Wallace Professor and Dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship at Macalester College in Minnesota, USA. Professor Samatar's expertise is in the areas of global political economy, political and social thought, and African development. He has lectured at many universities and colleges, including Cornell, Harvard, Iowa, the London School of Economics and Political Science, Somali National University, Wellesley College,

and the universities of Toronto, Amsterdam, York, and Otago. He is the author/editor of five books and over thirty articles, including *The African State: Reconsiderations* (Heinemann, 2002) and *Somalia: State Collapse, Multilateral Intervention, and Strategies for Political Reconstruction* (co-author, Brookings Institution, 1995).

Our second speaker Mr. Brian Walters SC/QC is a prominent Melbourne barrister and human rights advocate. He is a former president of Liberty Victoria and has appeared in many human rights cases - including defending Tamil citizens in Australia accused of supporting terrorism by sending money back to their homeland.

Venue: Baldwin Spencer-Theatre, The University of Melbourne, Parkville campus (3rd building on Tin Alley road, from Swanston street entrance, before student union house)

16 March 2010, 5.30 – 7.00 pm

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