

# SUCCESS STORIES

Ethiopian Side of the Somali Cluster

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Miyo Woreda of Ethiopia and Sololo District of Kenya- are parts of CEWARN's areas of reporting

## *Mediation Efforts by Miyo & Sololo Local Peace Committees (LPCs)- Resolving a long standing dispute*

The Miyo Woreda in Ethiopia and Sololo District of Kenya successfully reached an agreement regarding an assault and livestock theft that occurred in 2006. The incident had previously led to tensions between residents of the two areas with seven persons from the Dukalle kebele of Miyo woreda being on a "wanted list" of the residents of Sololo due to the belief that they were involved in the attack. Two community meetings were held in February in order to determine who had carried out the attack. Discussions were made on a compensation scheme. A person suspected of the crime had been apprehended in Miyo woreda. And the Miyo woreda local peace committee (LPC) requested that the case be heard in front of a traditional hearing by LPC members. The court magistrate approved the request.

The Miyo LPC carried out an investigation, which led to the determination that sixty people had attacked the Nurrow family in the Waye location of Sololo District, in Moyale Kenya on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2006. The sixty people came from three kebeles, Dikicha, Kuro Kantalla, and Dukalle of Miyo woreda. During the joint Miyo-Sololo meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2010 the sixty persons accepted their culpability in the crime, and agreed to return the 16 cattle. They requested that the community accept the original amount, without any added punishments. They also requested that seven persons from Dukale kebele that had been barred from going to Kenya be removed from the "wanted" list. The Kenyan delegation requested that since half the stolen cattle were female, they could have reproduced and multiplied in 4 years

time. Accordingly, they requested that 30 cattle be returned to the owner. Upon further deliberations and negotiations, it was decided that original number of cattle would be returned to the Nurrow family. Additionally, it was decided that the person who was imprisoned for the crime be released.

The deliberations between the Miyo and Sololo Local Peace Committees showed that mediation efforts can resolve disputes that have been simmering for a long period of time. Moreover, the willingness of local judicial structures to refer to traditional/peace committee mediation efforts shows that these communal institutions have credibility and authority among the local communities. Peace committees should be encouraged to address unresolved issues that effect communal issues both internally and at the cross border levels.

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