

Somalia: Voice from the Frontline

(3'24")

For more than 2 decades, Somalia in the horn of Africa has been in turmoil - civil war has killed and injured millions of people and left the country with little infrastructure and next to no health care. But one man is striving to make a difference. We join him on the frontlines of his struggle to save lives....

VIDEO

AUDIO

VILLAGE SCENES, PEOPLE
WALKING

NARRATION

Somalia – it's been plagued by civil conflict for decades. (5'15")

CROWDS FLEEING IN CONFLICT
INTRO OF Dr. SALEH IN MEDICAL
UNIFORM

DR. SALEH: (In English)

I should be where I'm needed, and this is where I'm needed. I'm a trauma surgeon. This is a conflict; trauma is every day, I must be there. (10'02")

DR DALEH EXAMINING PATIENT

NARRATION

40 year-old Egyptian Dr Omar Saleh is on the frontline in Somalia, working with the World Health Organization. (6'32")

ARCHIVAL VIDEO OF CARS WITH
GUNMEN

Besieged by bloody unrest and with no central government for years, Somalia's relentless violence has forced hundreds of thousands to flee the country and has killed and injured millions more. (13'93")

DR. SALEH EXAMINING YOUNG
BOY

But this man sees faces, not statistics. (2'41")

DR SALEH ON CAMERA

DR. SALEH: (In English)

When you watch the news, you see, for example, five injured, twenty injured...three killed. Those people, they are fathers, they are mothers, they are children, they are brothers, they are sons. I get to know that. (16'61")

DR SALEH WALKING WITH
VILLAGERS IN CAMP

NARRATION:

When Dr Saleh first arrived in 2007, having already worked in some of the world's bloodiest conflict zones, he thought he'd only stay six months, but as just one of only ten trauma surgeons in a country of nine million people, he knew he was desperately needed. (17'41")

DR SALEH ON CAMERA

DR. SALEH : (In English)

SICK CHILDREN

My dad, he was a trauma surgeon, and even before, when I was a student, he told me "Be anything—but not a trauma surgeon!" But if I'm not going to stay here, if I'm not going to do it, who will? Nobody. Any human being has the right to have an access to health care, irrespective of sex, gender, color, clan, whatever. (23'73")

DR SALEH OPERATING ON
PATIENT

You have bullets, shellings, burns, mainly, pressure injuries, blast injuries, those are the main causes. Facilities are very, very very much basic. (11'93")

SICK CHILD LYING ON SHEET ON
GROUND WITH IV TUBE ON HAND

NARRATION

In fact, when Dr Saleh first arrived, there were

only 25 working hospitals in the whole of the country. (5'57")

PEOPLE IN HOSPITAL IN WAITING AREA

DR. SALEH : (In English)

When we talk about hospitals, people think that "hospitals," is like something in the movies. It's not. It's like it was since like 50 years or so. You feel like your hands are tied, particularly when you know that the cure is simple and easy, but you don't have it. (17'60")

DR SALEH HUGGING SOMEONE

I care about people, and I have enough morals and thoughts and ideas and ideals to follow that, and to do my best to help them. That's like an obligation, as a human being, with knowledge, that I should pass this knowledge to somebody else. My worst fear is to go to my grave with my knowledge—I need to make sure that I have passed it before I go. (28'97")

DR. SALEH GIVING LECTURE IN CLASS

NARRATION:

And so Dr Saleh has trained nearly one hundred Somali doctors in trauma surgery. And he's helped set up more hospitals. But he believes that this is only part of the solution. (12'46")

DR. SALEH ON CAMERA

DR. SALEH : (In English)

If I could stop one thing in the world it would be war, because I find it a stupid thing—I mean big-time stupid. People are dying because of what? Land? Who's more precious, the land or the people? The people. (12'05")