

Fight for Life

TRAILER

For doctors with opportunities to work all over the world, these outstanding specialists of the International Committee of the Red Cross have risked their lives in order to treat thousands of injured people in Somalia.

RUNTIME: 12 MINUTES 31 SECONDS

COUNTRY: SOMALIA

FILMING LOCATION: MOGADISHU

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH & SOMALI

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

SCRIPT

The plight of civilians caught up in the war zone of Mogadishu since 2006 was deplorable as the war between Ethiopian soldiers and Somali insurgents deepened. Within weeks hundreds were injured and dozens killed while tens of thousands of people fled the Somali capital in the wake of armed clashes.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) called on the warring parties to comply with the rules of international humanitarian law and to take special care at all times to safeguard the lives and dignity of the civilian population. The parties were also called upon to take every precaution to spare medical facilities and humanitarian workers, and to permit rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian assistance.

Working in difficult security conditions, the ICRC did its utmost best to support Medina and Keysaney hospitals; the two referral facilities for war surgery in Mogadishu. Over a four week period the hospitals treated three hundred and fifty war-wounded civilians. They were under heavy strain owing to the regular and massive influx of casualties.

As Dr. Mohamed Yussuf Hassan, a senior surgeon at the Medina Hospital says “When the patients cannot come in time, they get wounded far away from the hospital and because of clashes on the streets they cannot take the patients in time so they have to wait many hours and the patient’s case becomes complicated and most times infected.”

In addition to the medical relief the ICRC provided, it also delivered over eight point five tonnes of medical supplies to Medina and Keysaney hospitals during the four weeks. In 2007, the hospitals treated four thousand, two hundred and sixty nine injured patients. One third of them were women and children. In 2006 they treated a total of two thousand and seventy six such cases. ICRC also distributed water and food to a Somalia struggling with drought and food shortages. Also, the ICRC helped cover the medical costs of the two hospitals, trained staff and provided relief for displaced families. They also assisted in re-establishing contact between displaced family members.

The International Community of the Red Cross has done a lot of work in Somalia and they have been providing the Somali population with humanitarian assistance since 1977, working in close partnership with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) which manages Keysaney Hospital and have also set up primary health care clinics in remote areas. These clinics have greatly helped the Somali people from remote areas as they have provided hope for women with children and for many other Somalis. However, despite the fact that the war did not take part in these remote areas, before the clinics were opened, the people from these areas had no means of survival as the war in Mogadishu prevented any supplies from getting to these areas and this had immense effects on the Somali population living far out.

That these doctors have been so willing to risk their lives to help war-wounded civilians in Somalia for so many years and continue to do so, is highly commendable and is also what the world needs more of. Their continued efforts in the midst of chaos, carnage and human suffering give the victims of this crisis relief and hope of a better future.

SHOTLIST

01:00 VARIOUS SHOTS OF MOGADISHU RUINS

01:22 MEDINA HOSPITAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU) – VARIOUS SHOTS OF INJURED PEOPLE

01:40 DAHIR NEGIE GAL – PATIENT WHO WAS SHOT AND WHOSE BROTHER WAS KILLED OUTSIDE THEIR HOME

01:54 DAHIR NEGIE GAL ITV (SOMALI)

“There are dead bodies everywhere, people are fleeing from the city or they are treated in hospitals like Medina and Keysaney and other hospital in town.”

02:14 DOCTOR YUSSUF TREATING A PATIENT IN AN EMERGENCY ROOM

02:34 DOCTOR MOHAMED YUSSUF HASSAN – SENIOR SURGEON (MEDINA HOSPITAL) ITV (ENGLISH)

“When the patients cannot come in time, they get wounded far away from the hospital and because of clashes on the streets they have to wait many, many hours and the patient’s case become complicated and most of times infected.”

02:52 VARIOUS SHOTS OF INJURED PEOPLE IN HOSPITAL

03:07 HALWA FARAH HERSI – 18 YEAR OLD GIRL WHO WAS SHOT ON HER WAY TO SCHOOL ITV (SOMALI)

“I was hit by the bullet as I was going to school. I was waiting at the bus station, as soon as the bullet hit me I was taken directly to Medina Hospital.”

03:17 HALWA’S FOOT THAT WAS SHOT HAS BEEN TREATED AND SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN SOON

03:20 KEYSANEY HOSPITAL, THE CITY'S SECOND REFERRAL HOSPITAL

03:24 VARIOUS SHOTS IN THE COURTYARD OF WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY A PRISON. FAMILIES HAVE GATHERED HERE AS IT IS CLOSE TO THEIR RELATIVES AT THE HOSPITAL AND IS ALSO SAFER

03:53 LEILA OSSMAN – SISTER OF WOUNDED MAN ITV (SOMALI)

“We had decided not to leave and we put our trust in God. I was going about my normal business as a shopkeeper. Then when my brother was wounded we decided to flee the area as everybody else was fleeing.”

04:09 LEILA VISITING HER BROTHER WHO IS JUST RETURNING TO CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER HIS OPERATION

04:27 DOCTOR TAJIR – KEYSANEY HOSPITAL DOES HIS ROUNDS IN THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

04:48 DOCTOR AHMED MOHAMED AHMED TAJIR ITV (ENGLISH)

“The organs, for example, they hit these kinds of missiles, are for example abdominal injuries and chest injuries, vascular injuries and head injuries.”

05:02 TRIAGE ROOM – HOLDING PEOPLE WITH VARIOUS INJURIES

05:16 HOSPITAL CORRIDOR

05:20 HARI RAYA WENT INTO LABOUR 24 HOURS AGO, BUT THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL WAS SHELLED AND CLOSED DOWN EARLIER IN THE DAY, SHE GIVES BIRTH TO A BABY BOY

05:50 DOCTORS STRUGGLE TO SAVE HARI RAYA'S LIFE

05:57 ABDULAHIE HUSSEIN ABDI – GENERAL SURGEON ITV (ENGLISH)

“She’s finished. She is good, the foetus is alive, a male one, and her condition is very good now.”

06:07 MEDICAL CLINIC IN BIOLEY – BAKOOL REGION (A REMOTE AREA OF SOMALIA)

06:11 MAN ON A DONKEY – DRAWN CART

06:15 VARIOUS SHOTS OF PEOPLE AT A MEDICAL CLINIC IN BIOLEY – BAKOOL REGION (A REMOTE AREA)

06:29 RODOLFO ROSSI – ICRC HEALTH DELEGATE ITV (ENGLISH)

“This room is the room which is used for mother-child health, meaning that all pregnant ladies come here to be consulted to see if their pregnancy goes well, where they can receive some supportive treatment to prevent anaemia during pregnancy and other maybe preventive treatment for malaria.”

06:50 VARIOUS SHOTS OF CLINIC IN GARANSWAYN (REMOTE AREA) AND PATIENTS WAITING OUTSIDE

07:05 VARIOUS SHOTS OF A WOMAN IN THE CLINIC WITH A YOUNG BOY

07:19 RED CRESCENT NURSE EXPLAINING PROCEDURES

07:32 BOY BEING WEIGHED ON WEIGHING SCALE

07:39 NURSE REGISTERING DATA

07:41 EXAMINATION OF BOY

07:48 NURSE GIVING BOY ORS – DEHYDRATION LIQUID

08:00 VARIOUS SHOTS OF NURSE EXPLAINING AND GIVING MEDICATION FOR THE BOY TO HIS MOTHER

08:14 VARIOUS SHOTS OF NURSE PREPARING MALARIA TEST FOR THE BOY

08:51 MOTHER AND BOY WAITING FOR TEST RESULTS

08:56 NURSE EXPLAINING RESULTS TO BOYS MOTHER

09:04 ULAYMA MOTHER OF BOY ITV (SOMALI)

“I had a first child. He was sick for thirteen days then he died. Then I had twins. One died after delivery, the second one was sick for several days, then he also died. Before this clinic opened there was no medical treatment available.”

09:27 VARIOUS SHOTS OF CLINIC AND PEOPLE WAITING OUTSIDE

09:55 FADUMA – MOTHER OF FOUR CHILDREN ITV (SOMALI)

“The difference between the traditional way of delivery and a clinic is that the traditional midwife comes to your house and she has only a razor or a knife to cut the umbilical cord. In the clinic the hygiene is better and they have the material to manage the delivery.”

10:41 MOTHER AND HER BABY GOING INTO THE CLINIC

10:50 LADY BEING GIVEN MEDICAL CARE IN THE CLINIC

10:56 HAWA MALISSA – MOTHER OF THREE CHILDREN ITV (SOMALI)

“Before this clinic opened, the problem was the lack of medicine but also a lack of education of the traditional midwives. In case of a complication, we were bleeding and suffering. The chance of survival was fifty fifty.”

11:12 DOCTOR ABDULAHIE (KEYSANEY HOSPITAL) GOING BACK INTO THE OPERATING THEATRE TO TREAT A GUNSHOT PATIENT

11:31 ABDULAHIE HUSSEIN ABDI – GENERAL SURGEON ITV (ENGLISH)

“We opened it and now we are very confident that the condition is very good, the bowel is normal, the small intestine is normal, all the peritoneum is intact, so we can sleep now.”

11:45 A PATIENT BEING TAKEN FROM SURGERY FOR RECOVERY

11:51 DOCTORS TALKING (SOMALI)

MAN IN WHITE: “We’ve only got two units left.”

MAN IN GREEN: “He’s bleeding badly, he’s losing all his blood.”

12:01 THE BLOOD BANK IS EMPTY, TWO UNITS OF BLOOD MATCH THE PATIENT’S BLOOD GROUP RHESUS B+, IT’S NOT ENOUGH. THE SURGEONS TRY TO SAVE HIS LIFE BUT HE DOES NOT SURVIVE

12:31 DOCTOR AHMED MOHAMED AHMED TAJIR ITV (ENGLISH)

“They come here in state of shock and of severe shock, and they need blood. And the problem here, we do not have a blood bank just to give them the blood. What we get only is the blood from the relatives.”

12:47 NEW DOCTORS BEING TRAINED BY DOCTOR TAJIR

13:00 DOCTOR AHMED MOHAMED AHMED TAJIR ITV (ENGLISH)

“I’m really happy to stay here and to help my people as well as all the staff of the hospital. That’s what we are doing and in the future also that’s what we would like to continue.”

13:22 FREEZE FRAME OF DOCTOR TAJIR

END