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PRESS RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACT**

William Burleson  
Publisher, Flexible Press  
612-998-9375  
[editor@flexiblepub.com](mailto:editor@flexiblepub.com)



*Note to editors: Author Abdul Dire is available for interviews, and copies are available to reviewers. Visit [www.flexiblepub.com](http://www.flexiblepub.com) for more information or contact Flexible Press [editor@flexiblepub.com](mailto:editor@flexiblepub.com).*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Abdul Dire's *Oromo Witness* receives national recognition through an Independent Press Award**

*Oromo Witness looks beyond history books to reveal the personal journey of one extraordinary man.*

On April 16, 2021, *Oromo Witness* by Abdul Dire was recognized with an [Independent Press Award](#) as a [Distinguished Favorite](#) in the category of World History.

The competition is judged by experts from different aspects of the book industry, including publishers, writers, editors, book cover designers and professional copywriters. Selected award winners and distinguished favorites are based on overall excellence.

*Oromo Witness* tells the astonishing tale of Hangasu Wako Lugo, from his home in Ethiopia to his fight for his people's freedom and, finally, to St. Paul, Minnesota. Twin Cities debut author, Abdul Dire, Hangasu's nephew, takes readers on a journey of survival, resistance, triumph, internal conflict, and wisdom. Along the way, the reader will learn about the history and culture of the Oromo people and their struggle for the opportunity to determine their own destiny on their own land.

In 2021, the Independent Press Award had entries worldwide. Participating authors and publishers reside in countries such as Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and others. In addition, books submitted included writers located in U.S. cities such as Atlanta to Santa Fe; Chicago to New York; from Boise to Honolulu, and others.

"We congratulate this year's 2021 winners and distinguished favorites in the annual Independent Press Award. The quality and quantity of excellent independently published books hit a record. Independents recognized are thriving around the world; and we are so proud to announce these key titles representing global independent publishing." said awards sponsor Gabrielle Olczak.

Author Abdul Dire is an Ethiopian-born tech leader at a Fortune 500 company, philanthropist, and author. He holds a bachelor's degree in materials science and engineering, and a master's degree in management of technology from the University of Minnesota. Abdul lives in Minnesota with his wife and four children.

*Oromo Witness* is published by Flexible Press, a Minneapolis publisher dedicated to supporting authors, communities, and mission-driven non-profits through story. A portion of the profits from *Oromo Witness* will be donated to a non-profit dedicated to providing school supplies to Ethiopian children. More information can be found at [www.flexiblepub.com](http://www.flexiblepub.com).

For more information about the Independent Book Awards and to see this year's list of IPA Distinguished Favorites, please visit [www.independentpressaward.com](http://www.independentpressaward.com).