

“Without further ado, I choose to visit Somalia” I announced. “You visit where? Reconsider!” Dad readily expressed skepticism. I pointed to my newspaper clippings.

Although the Oscar nominated *Captain Phillips* shed the spotlight on Somalia last year, current events research had already sparked my curiosity about the horn of Eastern Africa....

In Somalia, questioning kids and about health and school is on my agenda. US doctors suggest us to be vaccinated and carry adequate medication against illnesses like typhoid, yellow fever, rabies and malaria. I could carry prescriptions with first aid and water purifiers. However, after twenty-two years, doctors without borders pulled out health-aid teams from Somalia because of life threatening incidents like kidnapping. I think my interviews of aid workers and religious representatives about Somalian attitude holds the key to understand why the hands that care are bitten.

Expressing genuine interest to learn and spread details, from the medieval history to the current social and political position of Somalia has huge advantages. I could help earn a well- deserved respect for a misunderstood ancient settlers’ nation with a vibrant past.