

Torture: Artist tackles atrocities

from A1

the Libyan government on protesters.

Goldberg and about 15 others met Wednesday night to merge art and human rights, part of a project organized by the arts center and the human rights commission. They met to bring attention through art to human rights atrocities.

Sudanese-American artist Elishafei Dafalla Mohamed, currently an artist-in-residence at the arts center, led the project. A sculptor, painter, photographer and installation artist, Mohamed's work has honored journalists killed and tortured around the globe.

Wednesday night, four torches surrounded a blank canvas for the group to work on. Mohamed spray-painted a scene from his hometown in Sudan on the canvas, then urged the crowd to express themselves.

"You don't have to be an artist," he said.

Susan Belekewicz, a development consultant at the arts center, took her turn, spray-painting blue hearts.

"It's kind of a sad heart because of all the torture that exists," Belekewicz said.

As the night progressed, a litany of images, including sunrises and rooftops, filled the canvas.

Wednesday's public art will be displayed at the arts center, along with several exhibits by Mohamed. Goldberg said she hopes to dismantle the artwork at

IF YOU GO

- **What:** The Cotuit Center for the Arts is hosting a second public arts installation event with artist Elishafei Dafalla Mohamed that will include a community discussion about torture
- **When:** 2 to 5 p.m. today
- **Where:** Cotuit Center for the Arts, 4404 Route 28, Cotuit
- **Cost:** Voluntary \$10 fee

Mohamed grew up in Sudan before moving to the United States in 2001. He spent several years as an artist and master of fine arts student at the University of Michigan. He has participated in more than 50 exhibits worldwide.

In the city of Sennar, where he grew up, fire was seen as a symbol of welcome. Residents would build bonfires to encourage travelers to stop and rest.

Wednesday night, Mohamed said the four torches lighting the art project symbolized that same sense of community. "I am so happy to be part of this celebration," he told the crowd.

Mohamed's work will be featured at the Cotuit Center for the Arts through March 29. Several more of his exhibits and related workshops and events are scheduled in the coming days. The center's website, artsonthecape.com, contains more detailed information about upcoming events.