



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

Letter to the members of the Somali Diaspora (No. 4)

Nairobi, 6 August 2008

As-salaam Aleikum

You may remember my note to you in June after my trip to London where I met the Jaaliyadda Soomaaliyeed. Today I am writing to you after my recent visit to New York, Washington and Minneapolis (21 – 21 August).

The UN Security Council in New York spent the whole morning discussing Somalia in plenary and later behind closed doors. The Council members are showing a serious interest in the peace process and paying close attention to the situation. We all know that the UN Security Council is the world's most important decision-making body and their new found interest is most encouraging. The TFG and ARS came to the Security Council on an equal footing to represent Somalia.

In Washington I had a constructive meeting with Secretary of State, Condoleeza Rice, and with the Deputy Secretary of State, John Negroponte, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Jendayi Frazer, National Security Council Senior Director, Bobby Pittman, and other top officials who all expressed their support for the Djibouti Agreement. Please see the attached press release for more details.

In Minneapolis the Jaaliyadda is active in business and social affairs. I had an excellent meeting with the large, vibrant, generous and patriotic Somali community and we had an open and frank discussion. The meeting was attended by at least two hundred participants, some coming from as far as California and Illinois, and I recognized among them a former colleague who was the Somali ambassador to Brussels in the late 1970s . I was pleased to see that more than a third of those attending were women. Unfortunately time was short to comprehensively discuss all the substantive issues however we should remain in touch and I plan to visit and revisit those in the US and Canada. The support for peace and reconciliation was overwhelming.

The Djibouti Agreement is now being implemented step by step and the TFG and ARS have provided their lists for the Security Committee and High Level Committee as described in Articles 8 and 9 of the Agreement. Hopefully we will hold the first meetings of the two Committees next week, probably in Djibouti.

As you have read, the TFG has been affected by recent internal developments but remains a committed partner in the peace exercise. I have spoken to the leaders, the President, Speaker and Prime Minister and their close associates. The main issue of contention seems to have been resolved. Your continuing support and encouragement on that issue is most welcome. Somalia needs strong partners. The crises of the past are no longer tolerated by the Somali people – especially as we are just one year from the end of the transition period. Cooperation and peace are the way forward.

Sadly the violence continues, especially with the horrific killing of innocent women cleaning the streets of Mogadishu which is totally unacceptable.

Overall most Somalis are respecting their commitments. We in the international community will match their efforts as peace and stability is long overdue, not just for the suffering people of Somalia, but it is also in the interests of the region and the international community as a whole.

Somalis should remain united in their purpose. When I was in Minneapolis I quoted the Koran, Surat 3 verse 103. Today I am concluding this message with the same Surat which I encourage everyone to take to heart.

“And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves...”

Your brother,

Ahmedou