



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

Letter to the members of the Somali Jaaliyadda (No. 16)

Nairobi, 24 July 2009

As-Salaamu Alaikum,

My warm greetings to you all as always.

This is an update on the latest developments as the situation on the ground is often changing. Sadly, for the Somali civilians, particularly those in Mogadishu, which continues to be attacked by extremist elements including foreigners, the suffering continues. Tens of thousands of your innocent compatriots have been forced to flee their homes, some to other parts of the city, others to live in basic shelters in Afgoye. What is heartbreaking is that many had returned home after January 2009, expecting peace as promised from those who had opposed the presence of the Ethiopians. Instead, whole families, including women and children, are again running for their lives without a roof over their heads. I have not seen this anywhere else in Africa. It is difficult for me to find any justification for this repeated misery inflicted on ordinary Somalis by their own countrymen. *Let them adore the Lord of this House who provides them with food against hunger and security against fear.* (Qurayshi: 106 Verses: 3 and 4)

The suffering of the people has not stopped the fighters. Those who have been trying to overthrow the Government since 7 May are continuing their assaults but have not succeeded. They have brought death and destruction again to Mogadishu and brought the international image of Somalia even lower. However, I must reassure you that those who want to destroy the country further will not succeed.

It is clear there are some who do not want to see any Government in Somalia and who will continue to fight for their own objectives. However, I call on all parties to look at the long term and the country's future. The mandate of this Government will last until August 2011, two more years. The Government remains open for talks with those who accept the Peace Process and want stability. That does not mean they have to join the Government – they may, but there is room for opposition parties too. The Djibouti Process remains the way forward accepted by Somalis and the international community. The key is for those who are interested in politics to support the current system and prepare for elections in two years' time. Recent history in Somalia has proved that brutal force has repeatedly failed to lead to any lasting success or stability. Equally, trying to use environmental or economic issues as a front for holding political conferences will not fly.

At the same time, the Government must continue to seriously extend its hand to all Somali leaders and individuals interested in stability. The Government's agreement

with Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a is good and should be fully and completely implemented. The same for those from Hizbul Islam who joined the Government recently and who should be accommodated. The Government and Parliamentarians need to remain in the country and step up their work, to show some benefits to the people.

On 20 July, I attended a consultative meeting of the African Union, troop contributing countries and international partners in Addis. The meeting underscored the call, made by IGAD in its communiqué of 20 May, for the UN Security Council to take immediate measures including; the imposition of sanctions on all spoilers; a no fly zone; a blockade of seaports and the monitoring of land borders to prevent the entry of foreign elements into Somalia and arms shipments. These decisions were endorsed by the AU. The IGAD Council of Ministers meeting in Addis on 10 July categorically affirmed the Djibouti Agreement as the only valid process for peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

I also attended the meeting of the European Union Peace and Security Committee on Somalia in Brussels on 10 July. The EU Ambassadors offered their full backing to the peace process and have pledged greater EU involvement. This was also emphasized by Javier Solana, the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security policy and Stefano Manservigi, the EU's Director General for Development. As always, there is full support from the League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Conference and a wide range of countries including the US. The UN Security Council will be discussing Somalia next week and I plan to attend the meeting.

Following my visit to Mogadishu, the deputy Special Representative has also visited and held useful meetings with the President, Prime Minister, his Cabinet and others. Other colleagues have also been travelling to Somaliland and Puntland. My office is planning several important meetings in the upcoming months. These include a meeting of former military officers in Washington and a conference on Justice and Reconciliation next month.

I am always saddened by the actions of those who prolong the suffering of the people and was disturbed by the abduction for ransom of three individuals who were working to help the poor people living in northeastern Kenya. I cannot understand how this action helps Somalis or the image of Somalia in any way. I call for the immediate release of these three aid workers and other foreigners and Somalis being illegally held. Likewise, I condemn the looting of the UN offices in Jowhar, Wajid and Baidoa, which seem calculated to make it as difficult as possible to bring humanitarian aid to the people of Somali as well as the targeted killing of journalists.

I look forward to meeting some of you shortly. I hope all of you will continue to support peace, stability and dignity in Somalia and not to give up. These are testing times, but there is the hope of a brighter future and we must all work together more than ever to make it a reality.

Yours Faithfully
Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah