



UNPOS Quarterly

Advancing Peace & Reconciliation for Somali People

March 2011, Issue No.1



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From the SRSG's Desk



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the first edition of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) Quarterly! As we are a political office, much of the work that we undertake tends to be less apparent than that of more operational agencies and organizations. We thought a newsletter might be the appropriate forum for providing some general knowledge and information about the activities of the UN Political Office for Somalia.

UNPOS provides the political umbrella under which issues of peacemaking, peacebuilding, security and stability, and piracy, among others, are addressed. To that end, UNPOS is expected to coordinate international efforts to generate ideas and strategies to advance the peace process and seek solutions. This is best exemplified by the United Nations Djibouti Agreement of 2008 which laid out the framework to guide the peace process forward from the foundations of the Transitional Federal Charter.

The Office is also tasked with coordinating the activities of the UN system in Somalia and mobilizing support and resources from the International Community for both immediate relief, recovery and long-term economic development. Taking steps toward achieving these directives, UNPOS facilitated in April 2009, a donors conference in Brussels in support of the Somalia Security Institutions and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Then, in May 2010, UNPOS together with the Government of Turkey, led a Conference on Reconstruction and Development in Somalia in Istanbul. The International Contact Group (ICG), which meets every six months, was established in June 2006 by the United States of America and Norway to support peace and reconciliation in Somalia. The ICG is represented by a small group of nations as key international and regional organizations. The ICG is now chaired by UNPOS which coordinates a meeting every quarter. The ICG currently consists of over 30 countries and 10 organizations.

UNPOS has grown rapidly in the last few years, with a current total of 64 international and national staff members, an increase from 44 in late 2008. In late 2009, the office began a gradual move to our new location in the UNEP compound to accommodate the increase in staff and to be situated close to the UNSOA (UN Support Office for AMISOM), which provides administrative support to UNPOS, in addition to logistical support for African Union troops in Somalia.

That move was completed in early 2010. UNPOS is based in Nairobi, but since September 2010, it is deploying international and national staff in Puntland and Somaliland with a light foot print presence in Mogadishu.

In July 2010, I was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of UNPOS. More changes in the Senior Management took place in the intervening months. The latest addition is Christian Manahl who UNPOS welcomed in March as my new Deputy Special Representative.

Besides internal changes, there have been a number of significant external changes and challenges that have had an impact on our work, most recently, the change in the Somali government in November 2010, and the challenges of ending the transitional period of the Transitional Federal Institutions. As we forge ahead, we can expect the period leading up to the end of the transitional period to precipitate more changes and developments in Somalia. On the security front, the TFG forces and AMISON are poised to secure the whole of Mogadishu from the Al-Shabab insurgents before securing the rest of South Central Somalia.

There may be a new government by August 2011 while Parliament may continue for a while following its unilateral extension. Meanwhile, Parliament has to undertake reforms to become more inclusive and therefore more representative. The decisive end of the transition will come when a new interim Constitution is adopted. Work is in progress on the Constitution.

While there may be difficult times ahead as we enter into this critical phase, the one guiding principle which we should resolutely adhere to, is *change with stability*. We must be able to manage the change without any further destabilization of the work that has been done or of that which is currently in progress. Cohesion among the leadership of both the Executive and the Legislature is crucial in ending the transition.

UNPOS' Security Sector Development unit has been working to help strengthen the Somali security institutions and the Rule of Law by facilitating police and military trainings, mobilizing resources for the provision of equipment and assisting in the rehabilitation of the infrastructure in Mogadishu's police stations. Work on the Judiciary and Corrections services is also important. Our efforts are boosted by our international partners through generous donations and/or coordination of much needed training. Some of UNPOS' efforts within the Security Sector are highlighted in this issue of the newsletter.

But UNPOS is also dedicated to working with Somalis in many other areas related to peace and state building including Civil Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Disarming, Demobilizing and Rehabilitation (DDR) with current priority on defectors, countering piracy and reconstruction and development. The UNPOS Quarterly will highlight some of the work undertaken in these areas in upcoming issues. It will also from time to time, feature ordinary Somalis who are working to restore peace and contributing to the survival and welfare of their nation.

We hope that after reading this and subsequent issues, you will have a little more insight into the work that UNPOS is undertaking. The achievements we aspire to and the challenges that lie ahead depend on a continuing partnership and commitment to peace and stability in Somalia by all of us.

Augustine P. Mahiga,
Special Representative for the UN Secretary-General for Somalia
UN Political Office for Somalia
March 2011

Joint Regional Strategy Adopted



Senior leadership of UNPOS, AMISOM and IGAD met on **23 February 2011** and agreed to adopt a Joint Regional Strategy (JRS) in Nairobi aimed at supporting the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) through the transition period.

The UN Special Representative for Somalia Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of AMISOM, Ambassador Boubacar Diarra and IGAD facilitator Kipruto Arap Kirwa signed the document during a monthly coordination meeting, witnessed by the Deputy Director, Department of Political Affairs, Margaret Vogt.

The JRS seeks to have a common approach towards the political, humanitarian, institutional, financial issues and any challenges facing the Somali peace process and the management of the TFG Transition.

The three institutions will use the strategy as a tool of coordination, cooperation and information sharing between them and the International Community.

Wilton Park Conference on Somali

The United Kingdom hosted a conference on Somalia at Wilton Park, from **7 to 9 February 2011**. The Conference was attended by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Augustine P. Mahiga, Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra, representatives of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and regional administrations, senior representatives from the International Community, academics and members of civil society.



After three days of deliberation, there was broad consensus on a range of important issues. In particular, participants agreed on the need for an inclusive, Somali-led political process to resolve the ongoing conflict. Participants noted that the International Community should fully support the

Transitional Federal Institutions as long as they were inclusive in the transitional tasks and were working for the stability, security and development of Somalia.

Somalia Parliament extension met with opposition

Somalia's Transitional Parliament decision on **3 February 2011** to extend its mandate by three years beyond the transition period slated to end in August 2011 caused quite a stir among members of the International Community. Press statements issued by the diplomatic community said the move was hurried and a disservice to the Somali people taken without the required level of discussion and consultation. UN Special Representative for Somalia Augustine P. Mahiga issued a statement expressing his disappointment that consultations which had begun with the President, the Speaker of Parliament and the Prime Minister had not been followed through.

Ambassador Mahiga said that he, together with representatives from the African Union and IGAD would meet as soon as possible with the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions to "discuss the way forward

while "ensuring stability and change." Defending Parliament's decision, Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed said that the move was necessary to avert a political vacuum and constitutional crisis.

IGAD convenes meeting in Ethiopia

On **30 January 2011**, IGAD Heads of State reached a consensus to extend the term of the current Transitional Federal Parliament at a meeting held in Addis Ababa. The Heads of State also called on the leadership of the TFG and Ahlu-Sunna Wal Jamaa to fully implement the agreement they entered into on 15 March 2010, in Ethiopia.

The TFG leadership was further urged to strengthen ties with Somaliland and Puntland so as to prevent terrorists from infiltrating the two regions. The Cabinet was also asked to swiftly complete the remaining tasks of the transition including the drafting and approval of the Constitution, providing livelihood to the population and expanding the authority of the State.



Ambassador Augustine P. Mahiga met with the former French Foreign Minister, Alliot-Marie in Paris to discuss issues on Somalia on **15 February 2011**

Photo: Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et Européennes/Cyril Bailleur



United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Valerie Amos, meets with Puntland officials on **2 February 2011** to discuss humanitarian issues in the region

Security Sector Development

Somali Security Sector given a major boost

The skies are ocean blue and though the sun shines brightly overhead, it is a merciful cool Monday morning in Djibouti. Which is fortunate because VIPs dressed in very formal wear are being escorted down the red carpet to join hundreds of others in their stadium seats at the Idriss Farah Abaneh Police Academy. Music fills the air while the stadium fills up and the spectators have a few moments to take in the scene. Three different flags are on display on a post pitched in the middle of the ground, that of the UN, Republic of Djibouti, and African Union Mission in Somalia

Trumpets belt out cavalier tunes and finally finish with the Djibouti and Somali national anthems. There is the sound of approaching vehicles, the President of Djibouti, Ismail Omar Guelleh has arrived. His heavily guarded Somali counterpart, President Sheikh Sharif, arrives minutes later. Each one inspects the men standing before them in uniform before taking leave to the sitting area where they are welcomed by the women in traditional attire with song and praise.

It is 17 January 2011 and the inauguration ceremony to showcase 500 Somali

police recruits who have been undergoing an intensive training in Djibouti is about to kick off.

It has been said by many Somali specialists, including Special Representative to the Secretary-General, Augustine P. Mahiga, that stability and security are critical to the peace process. Today, the crowds have tangible evidence that those words have been heard.

The UN, the International Community and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) are combining their efforts to achieve that goal. The Government of Japan contributed \$10 million to UNPOS Trust Fund for the Somalia Security Sector which made the training possible. The fund will also support the procurement of equipment, the construction of eight police stations and payment of stipends. Japan has donated a further \$10 million for capacity building for the Ministry of Interior.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Mahiga noted "restoration and sustainability of security is one of the key pillars on which the Djibouti Agreement is based. It is also one of the

priority tasks of the TFG for promoting stability, creating a wider space for political outreach and reconciliation, supporting the constitution-making process and facilitating reconstruction and development."

In addition to practical exercises, the recruits covered key topics such as human rights law, self defense, history of Somali police and general world police history. The recruits will be deployed in Mogadishu to beef up the security sector of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) battling an Islamist insurgency.

Similar trainings have taken place in Kenya and Uganda with a view of strengthening the Somali police force to 7000 officers as endorsed by the Joint Security Committee (JSC) meeting in 2010.

At a press conference following the ceremony, the SRSG emphasized that "The security process is a long-term one. It is one of the essential tasks of the TFG to gain legitimacy, trust and credibility of its citizens as well as the International Community ." ■



Somali police trainees march at Idriss Farah Abaneh Police Academy during the inauguration ceremony

Security Sector Development

JSC meeting in Djibouti



Members of the 7th Joint Security Committee (JSC) met in Djibouti on 20 January 2011 to review the progress of the decisions of the JSC since the last meeting in August 2010 and to explore further advancements in the Committee's action plan for 2011.

tional Security Force (NSF) structures; establishment of the JSC Secretariat; addressing the issue of defection, institutional development and humanitarian issues with implications for security.

The Committee also recommended that the JSC meet more frequently and that UNPOS will be required to provide additional financial support incurred for the meetings. The JSC agreed that meetings should take place in Mogadishu to encourage better participation. (The JSC Communiqué in its entirety can be found on www.unpos-unmissions.org.)

The JSC was established by the Djibouti Peace Agreement in 2008 to strengthen the security capabilities of Somalia

Agreeing to better operational coordination between the TFG forces and the Government and the TFG forces and AMISOM, the Committee laid out its priorities for the next months which include: supporting the TFG relevant security line ministries to formulate policies based on the recommendations of the Security Sector Assessment; adoption of the National Security and Stabilisation Plan (NSSP); integration of personnel trained under the European Union Training Mission in appropriate Na-

The JSC was established by the Djibouti Peace Agreement in 2008 to strengthen the security capabilities of the Somali Government and more recently to facilitate the coordination of international support to the TFG Security Sector. Its members consist of senior TFG officials, AMISOM, UNPOS and other members of the International Community including EU/EC, IGAD, League of Arab States, Norway, UK, Spain, Sweden, and the US. ■

Senior Security seminar held in Djibouti

On 18 and 19 January 2011, a Senior Leadership Seminar on Security Sector Development was held in Djibouti and was attended by the senior members of the TFG, UNPOS, UNDPKO, US, EU, AMISOM, UNDP and other relevant partners. During the seminar, international partners updated the newly appointed cabinet ministers and their heads of security agencies responsible for Security Sector Development in Somalia.

The seminar was also used as a forum for strengthening the level of collaboration and cooperation between the new Ministers and Heads of agencies, sharing international best practices in state building, stabilization and disarmament, and demobilization and reintegration. In addition, the EU, UNDP, the Police Technical Working Group (PTWG) and the Military Technical Working Group (MTWG) briefed the Cabinet on progress made so far.

The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was urged to strengthen its relationship with the International Community to ensure that any challenges it faced could be discussed and scenarios developed. In addition, the TFG was asked to create a strong national security structure which is vital for the success of the national security.

The discussions held at the seminar were tabled at the Joint Security Committee meeting held on 20 January in Djibouti for deliberation. ■

Female recruits train side by side with their male counterparts

Sagal Hashi Osman is well aware of the dangers awaiting her when she eventually returns to Mogadishu as a new police recruit. But she refuses to be intimidated. "I have lived in Mogadishu as a civilian. I know it is dangerous but I'm ready to work," Sagal says during an interview on the side lines of the inauguration ceremony for the Somali police recruits held in Djibouti on 17 January 2011.

The 19 year old is one of the 83 women recruits selected to take part in a three-month training for the Somali police force which took place in Djibouti. The recruitment of these women was seen as a bold step in the Somali Security Sector which has largely been male dominated. Asked whether she found the training more difficult than her male counterparts, Sagal says "I did not personally find it difficult although there are people who did. It was the same for both men and women. Before we were recruited, we were tested on our physical suitability."



Inside Somalia

Reporting from the front line

Award winning Somali journalist Mustafa Haji Abdinur, in Mogadishu, talks of the challenges he faces as a journalist

By Esther Njoki Mwangi

When a stray bullet landed inches away from where his son lay sleeping one night in late 2008, following a bitter confrontation between AMISOM and the insurgents in the South of Mogadishu, Mustafa Haji Abdinur knew he had to move his family to safer ground. The family settled for Hargeisa, a relatively safe city in Somaliland. Mustafa, a two-time international award winning Somali journalist and AFP correspondent, however, decided to stay put.

While he could take comfort knowing that his family was safe, the situation around him only got more threatening. In June 2009, his colleague and mentor Muktar Mohamed Hirabe, then director of Radio Shabelle was shot and killed in cold-blood by two armed men. Just weeks before, his young friend and colleague, 24 year old Abdirisak Warsame had died, after being caught up in crossfire while leaving his radio station. The two were among six journalists killed in Somalia in 2009. Three more were killed the following year.

The decision to stay in Mogadishu after his friend's death took some soul-searching and a lot of courage. At the time, many journalists were fleeing the country as the environment became increasingly hostile for anyone with a notebook and a pen. "I took the decision to be part of the few who remained to keep Somalia news alive. We needed the rest of the world to know what was happening in Somalia," says the 30 year old journalist.

Mustafa's family is anxious about him working in Mogadishu and often pleads with him to quit journalism and leave the country. He insists, however, on staying put. To allay their fears, he makes a point of calling his wife, two



"Violence is part of the lives of people here, nobody enjoys life in Mogadishu even in parts where people think it is relatively calm."

daughters and son every day. Being on his own and without his family, he says, also helps him move around more freely. He avoids having a permanent address for security reason.

Mogadishu is not a pleasant place to live, let alone work, "Violence is part of the lives of people here. Nobody enjoys life in Mogadishu, even in parts where people think it is relatively calm. When you wake up in the morning to go to work, you are never sure whether you will make it back home alive," he says.

A country without a functioning government for 20 years, Somalia has seen its fair share of violence and human rights abuses. Mustafa says he has lost count of the number of disturbing incidences he has witnessed and covered in his time as a journalist. He says that punishments handed out by extremists, such as stoning people to death or amputations top the list

Reporting in an area controlled by several de facto administrations Mogadishu poses yet one more challenge. The Transitional Federal Government

Inside Somalia



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(TFG), with the support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops control seven districts; five are contested and the rest are in the hands of Al-Shabab. Media restrictions and censorship by all parties to the conflict are very common. When fighting erupts between two feuding sides, journalists often find themselves on the receiving end of harsh censorship if they report that one side is losing over the other. "It is very difficult to report in such areas, you need to select your words very carefully otherwise your chances of survival become slim," explains Mustafa. But despite being a reporter for a Western-based media, Mustafa says he can still access areas controlled by Al-Shabab prior to seeking permission and informing the officials on what he intends to report. As one would expect, members of Al-Shabab do not look favourably upon the independent media, although,

the group's officials occasionally call on journalists when they want media coverage.

In recognition of his hard work, courage and self sacrifice, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) awarded Mustafa the International Press Freedom Award in 2009. In his acceptance speech, Mustafa paid special tribute to his friends Muktar Mohamed Hirabe, Abdirisak Warsame and the rest of his fallen colleagues in Somalia. The following year, CNN honored him with its "MultiChoice African Journalist of the Year Award".

Mustafa says that the awards have not only motivated him, but have helped encourage many other journalists in Somalia, "It helps them know that the world is still with them," he says. The awards inspired him to co-found Somali Media for Peace and Development (SOMEPED) with four other journalists,

one of whom was killed in the line of duty. SOMEPED was founded to help improve the quality of journalism in Somalia. Its members include journalists, Civil Society and human rights groups. Mustafa also co-founded Radio Simba in 2007 and has worked for many more radio stations in Mogadishu.

His message to young people aspiring to become journalists in war-torn countries is that "journalism is a respected profession which comes with a lot of responsibilities." Mustafa was a school teacher in Baidoa in 1999 when the idea of becoming a journalist started simmering in his mind and he decided to pursue it. "I still love what I do. I believe that journalists are the eyes and ears of the society." ■

Somalia, which has been marred in armed conflict for twenty years now, is one of the most dangerous places on earth to be a journalist according to human rights groups. This trend has forced most journalists into exile to neighboring states of Kenya and Uganda.

- A total of three journalists were killed in Somalia in 2010. Another six were killed the previous year.
- The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) statistics ranks Somalia as the 7th most deadliest countries for journalists. According to CPJ, 34 journalists have been killed since 1992.
- Reporters Without Borders ranked Somalia 161 out of 178 in Press Freedom Index 2010, a slight improvement from 2009 when it was ranked 164.
- In 2010, there were eight attacks on media houses according to a report by National Union of Somali Journalists. The report further indicates that three journalist were wounded in the line of duty the same year.

Inside Somalia

Somalia drought affects the most vulnerable

By Esther Njoki Mwangi

The future for Dahabo Raage Mohamed looks bleak. She has been reduced to begging in market places and bus stations. Recently, the 74 year-old grandmother, her 41 year-old daughter and her six grandchildren were forced to leave their home in Aadan-yabaal, Middle Shabelle for Dhakerneely District in Mogadishu as the effects of the drought currently upon Somalia became unbearable. Their 275-kilometer journey to Mogadishu, mostly on foot and in a donkey cart, took 24 long days.

Life was not always this hard for Dahabo and her family. Before moving to Mogadishu, the family had 28 goats and practiced small scale farming to meet their basic needs. "The three year drought that hit our area left many of our livestock dead. We could not even cultivate our lands due to failed rains. Out of the 28 goats we had in our possession, we only managed to leave with three," Dahabo said. "We chose to come to Mogadishu because we wanted access to humanitarian

assistance, protection and better security."

But despite the move, life is still difficult for the family surviving on one meal a day often provided by well wishers from the host community, "We are requesting humanitarian agencies to assist us with decent shelter as what we currently have is not secure or sufficient," Dahabo said

Dahabo's story is not unique. The UN Refugee Agency, estimates that 52,130 people were displaced from 1 December 2010 to 25 February 2011 in Somalia due to the ongoing drought. Most of those displaced by the drought, according to UNHCR and Somali local NGOs have been settling at Dhakerneely District.

Somalia is currently suffering from one of the worst droughts in years, after the short rains expected in October and December failed to arrive. The drought coupled with the ongoing conflict in Somalia, is making life there a serious humanitarian crisis.

According to a study conducted by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit FSNAU, the number of people needing humanitarian assistance in Somalia has increased to 2.4 million in the last six months, up from two million last year. Child malnutrition, particularly in the South of Somalia, remains one of the worst in the world. FSNAU says that approximately 75 per cent of the estimated 241,000 malnourished children in the country remain in the conflict-stricken southern regions

The drought is not only affecting South Central Somali but also Puntland and Somaliland. The UN, Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has released US \$4.5 million to assist the affected areas. The main sectors identified for immediate interventions with these funds are Livestock, Agriculture, Nutrition and Water/Sanitation. ■



The devastating effects of the current drought in Somalia

Photo: Galmudug State

Constitution Update

Building the Constitution

By Lucie Sewe

Concern over the constitution making process is increasing day by day as the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) approaches the end of term. The present, expanded Independent Federal Constitution Commission (IFCC) was re-constituted in March 2010, primarily to lead the constitution-making process. As soon as the Commissioners were sworn in, IFCC went through a series of capacity-building programmes which were aimed at empowering the commissioners with issues and concepts relevant for the preparation of a draft constitution. The process was characterized by consultations, seminars, workshops and other activities.

The completed Consultation Draft Constitution (CDC) was presented to

the President of Somalia on 31 July 2010. Copies of the CDC were distributed to the Cabinet and Parliament. The CDC was then officially launched in Somalia on 26 August 2010 in Mogadishu, Garowe and Gal-kacyo. According to the plan, the draft was to be presented in Nairobi on 2 September 2010. This was, however, called off to allow for further consultations.

The President ruled that no activities must be undertaken until the CDC was enriched by inputs to be submitted by a team of advisors he was going to appoint. This caused a delay in the formal launch of civic education and public consultations, though people had already accessed the CDC and started commenting on it through radio programmes and tele-

vision broadcasts.

Meanwhile, Somalis continue to call radio stations and various media to express their views on the CDC.

The IFCC is, meanwhile, awaiting inputs from the President's advisors. This is to be followed by formal consultations. The constitution was expected to set a framework for ending the transition and crafting the next political dispensation. However, in light of the time constraints and given that the transition period expires in August 2011, the Somali authorities and the international partners are consulting on how to move the process forward. It has become apparent that the constitution will not be ready by August 2011. ■

Somalia women making their mark in the constitution process

By Chantal Ekambi

Women in Somalia, who make up 52 percent of the population, are largely under represented in political leadership, in government institutions and decision making bodies. Urging women to make their mark in the constitution-making process, (Women's Development Organization) IIDA, with the support of UNPOS and UNDP, organized a Gender Audit workshop from 6 to 8 September 2010 in Nairobi. IIDA is a Somali-based women's organization founded in 1991 with the aim to promote women's political, economic and social rights.

The exercise was the first ever held open discussion on women rights issues to give recommendations for inclusion in the final constitution.

During the three-day workshop, participants received training on how to raise and present their concerns to the Independent Federal Constitution Commission (IFCC).

A Position paper was also issued to

facilitate civic education sessions and to mobilize women of all trades in expanding their capacity to engage in the constitution-making process and to ensure consensus is reached on the gender contentious issues.

The workshop was necessitated following the launch in Djibouti of the Consultation Draft Constitution (CDC), launched in July 2010. At that time, Somali women present at the event called for more gender sensitivity in the constitution which should in a clear language accommodate their rights.

After the launch, the Independent Federal Constitution Commission (IFCC) was to ensure that the Somali community inside Somalia and in the Diaspora was given the opportunity to present their views and recommendations to be incorporated in the final document. The Commission, for its part, is tasked with working with Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to carry out Civic Education, Public and Political Consultations countrywide and in the Diaspora ■



Participants during the three-day gender workshop held in Nairobi

We caught up with Somalis living in Kenya and asked them: How do you feel about Parliament's decision to extend their mandate for another three years?

It is both wrong and right. It is wrong because Parliament has been sitting for the last seven years since the Bagathi and Djibouti processes. They do nothing for the people as there is no visible tangible result. It is also right because if they leave the place vacant, this may give more power to the insurgents and we do not know what will happen if insurgents are in power.

Hassan, Former Director of Information during Abdullahi Yusuf's regime, 57

I don't think that they should extend their term. Parliament is there to look after the interest of the people. Nothing much will change if they extend the term because in my opinion, they are there for their selfish reasons. People are dying and they do not try to change the current situation

Habiba, Housewife, 40

It was wrong. Most people believe that they are not doing a good job. We need a new set of Parliamentarians. We need regional representatives who have a minimum of 5 years experience and a bachelor degree. They should be selected based on their knowledge and not the 4.5 criteria.

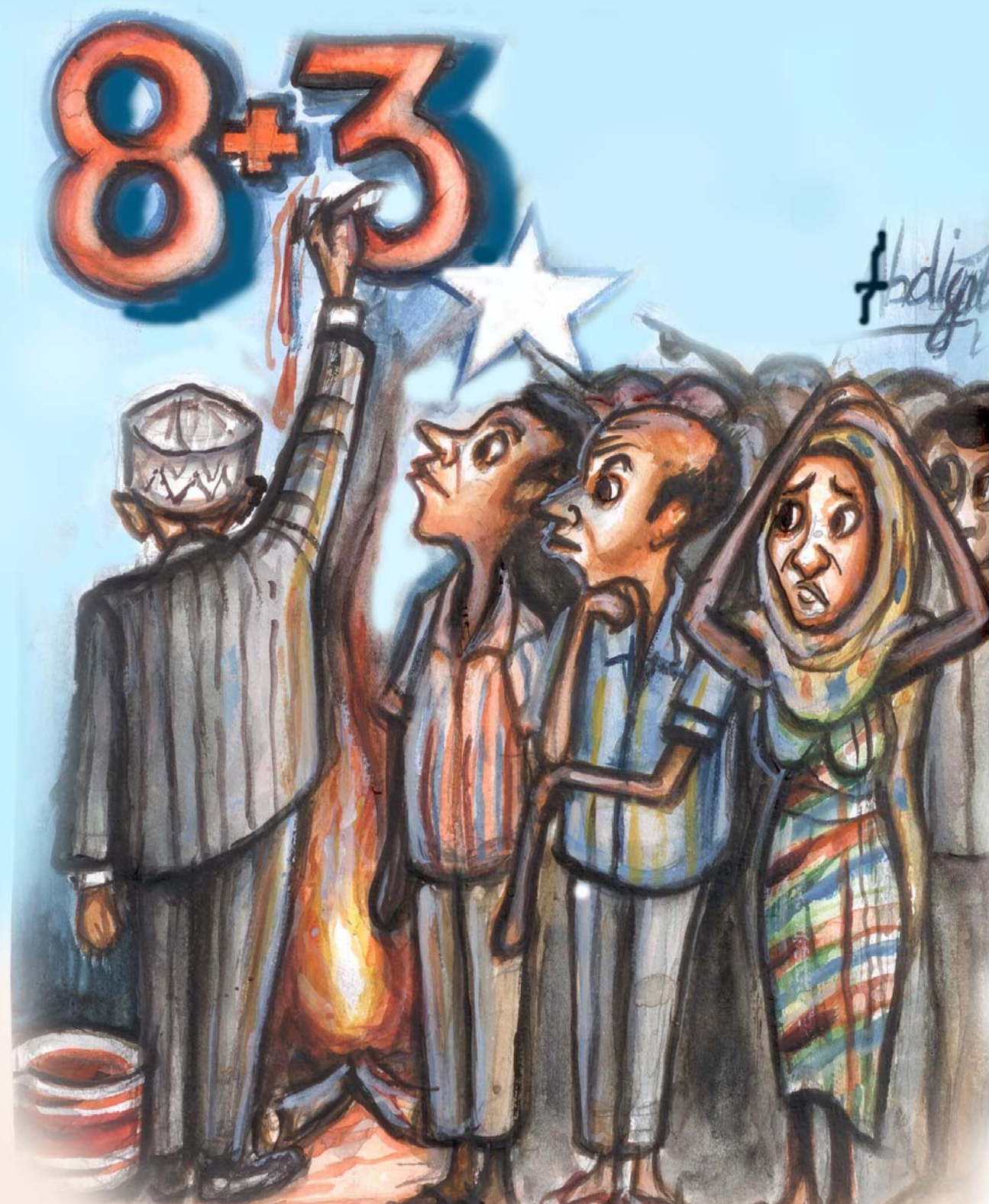
Amina, Humanitarian worker, 34

Absolutely not. They have nothing to do with the public. They live in a 20 kilometers radius. Somalia needs to hold new elections in ether Somaliland and Puntland. However, we have to give credit where it is due. In parliament, some people are good for example Mohammed Omar Dahar, a former deputy speaker who has helped secure release of Somali prisoners in Kenya and Libya

Muktar, Unemployed, 19

As Parliament, it is their prerogative legally to extend or reduce their term provided that it reflects the interest of their people. However, Somalia parliamentarians are facing a unique situation as they are supported by the international community both financially and security wise. Parliamentarians should therefore consult the international community for advice before making such a decision.

Malaq Madey, INGO worker, 54



THE EXTENSION OF THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD FOR PARLIAMENT



Photo: UN Somalia/Monoocher Deghati



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