



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

Letter to the members of the Somali Jaaliyadda (No. 12)

Brussels, 27 February 2009

As-salaamu Alaikum

Dear friends,

As you know, progress towards peace and stability is continuing faster than most Somalis, or the international community, dared to hope. As we come to the end of a key meeting of international donors here in Brussels, I would like to update you all and share some thoughts on the road ahead.

Following the appointment of the new Prime Minister, the new cabinet was formed after a week of talks. It contains a good number of able members drawn from the original TFG, the ARS and outside, all committed to the honour and dignity of Somalia and, above all, to the much needed ideal of consensus.

The President, Speaker, Prime Minister, Ministers and Parliamentarians, have moved from Djibouti to Mogadishu. This was a difficult step but it is widely agreed by patriotic Somalis that the institutions need to be in the capital.

In 2007 and 2008, those who backed the violence justified it by pointing to the presence of Ethiopian troops. One month after the departure of these troops, the carnage has continued. Previously, many observers had suggested that the presence of Ethiopians was not the real motive for the murders. Please, brothers and sisters, prove these observers wrong by requesting those who kill to cease spilling blood of innocent Somalis.

Those who persist in murder, kidnappings and other crimes are mistaken if they think that it is business as usual. Previously they may have killed their compatriots and watched the international community simply organize a new international conference to discuss Somalia again and again. However this is the past. Your people, their friends and neighbours are tired of this endless bloodletting. They will not accept it anymore and nor will the international community. We will work together to restore the country's sovereignty and dignity.

There is strong national and international opposition to these groups dedicated to violence taking over parts or all of the country. It is a well established fact that such opposition will not allow a brutal change in Government. Taking this into account, please tell those wanting Somalia to remain a divided country at the bottom of the

heap to stop and focus on the peace process, on themselves, on their families and people to whom they bring only misery. If it is because they are envious of Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed's success they should recite the Holy Koran in which refuge is sought with God: " ... *from the mischief of the envious one when he envies.*" (*Al-Falaq: Surah 113*)

Three Permanent members of the Security Council – France, UK and US – came together on 25 February and held an action-orientated, successful meeting in London. Their determination to support stability and the new Government was clear and firm. There is a need to be closer to the people and help with their main concerns; security, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and inclusion. As in all stable countries, Somalia deserves to house embassies and representatives of international organizations such as the UN, African Union, League of Arab States, European Commission, Organization of Islamic Conference, etc. Today Somalia is the exception, a country without resident ambassadors. It must end.

The P3's views were endorsed by the International Contact Group which I chair at its meeting on 26 – 27 February in Brussels. This meeting had the largest ever attendance since its inception in 2005 with nearly 30 countries and international organizations represented. The international community pledged urgent and sound funding for selected priority activities. You should be pleased to know a number of interventions during the discussion were about the role of the Diaspora in the peace process. There is a project to engage some 150 experts from the Jaaliyadda to help the new Somali administration. We will keep you informed about this question and also about the decision made by a number of Western Governments to hold frank discussions with the leaders of their nationals of Somali origin on the need to act positively in support of peace in your country.

Some people have asked about what should be done concerning Somalis who are on the black list of the UN Security Council. In other words, how to delist them. My response is sincere and brotherly. Many people are not helping Somalis by confusing this issue. What I can say is that those Somalis who are on this list should be eligible for delisting if and when they declare their support for peace in their country. I take it as a personal responsibility to defend their case if these steps are taken.

The international community is clearly demonstrating its support for the important steps being made inside Somalia. The backing of the Jaaliyadda will be a crucial element to ensure its short and long term success.

Yours Faithfully,

Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah