



SOMALILAND FORUM

PRESS RELEASE - IMMEDIATE

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No Political Prisoners in Somaliland

Building a democracy in an unrecognised country with very limited resources is not easy, but Somaliland has already done what many thought was impossible. Three popular successful elections have been held and we are just approaching the next round of elections. This remarkable achievement in a region where democracy is not flourishing must not be undermined by precipitous actions on the part of the Somaliland Government.

We have chosen (understandably because of the 1960s experience, but wrongly in our view, as we have said repeatedly before) that we will have a constitutional limit of three political parties, but there is nothing in our constitution or laws that says that these parties will forever be the current three (UDUB, KULMIYE & UCID) which succeeded as being the top three political associations in the last 2002 local elections. Now that we are approaching another set of local elections, the leaders of QARAN political association and, so far, two other declared associations, are not challenging the constitutional three party limit but are saying that they want to exercise their constitutional right to association and to be given the chance to contest the forthcoming local elections in December 2007.

They argue that there is no law which stops them from doing that and that it is the Government which is breaking the law and the constitution by not setting up again the political associations registration committee which was disbanded 6 months after the 2002 local elections.

Whether one agrees with them or not, it is utterly unacceptable for citizens who are seeking to exercise their constitutional rights in a peaceful manner, to be told in writing by a Minister who belongs to one of the three parties that they are criminals, and then to be sent to jail. The Chairman and the two Deputy Chairman of Qaran association, **Dr. Mohamed Abdi Gaboose, Mr Mohamed Hashi and Mr Jamal Aideed**, have been sent to Mandhera Jail on 28/7/2007, and will, no doubt, feel that they have now become Somaliland's first political prisoners.

The Somaliland Forum:

1. condemns unreservedly the imprisonment of the three citizens and asks that they should be released immediately and without any conditions;

2. warns that, as there are no offences set under the Political parties Registration Law (Law No: 14 of 2000), any attempts to try these citizens for “offences against the state” under the old Penal Code will be unacceptable;
3. asks that the permanent committees of both Houses of Parliament hold joint hearings (by inviting representations from Qaran and the other associations, the political parties and civil groups) about the pros and cons of appointing a new political parties registration committee under Article 2 of Law No: 14 of 2000 and report jointly to both Houses within 4 weeks;
4. believes that it is a basic tenet of democracy that limitations of the participation in elections must, in principle, be kept to the minimum necessary in a democratic society and confining all elections, for ever , to be contested only by the current three parties is contrary to democracy and human rights;
5. calls on the Somaliland Government to refrain from imposing any restrictions on citizens’ rights to freedom of association, assembly and expression ; and to avoid labelling anyone who criticises it as harbouring anti-Somaliland tendencies;
6. exhorts all citizens, and in particular those who are planning to form new associations, to continue safeguarding the peace and public order ;
7. asks the Government to take immediate steps to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, and for the president to sign the Organisation of the Judiciary Bill which has been stuck between the two Houses and the President for the last 3 years; and
8. encourages the two Houses and the President to take all necessary steps to ensure that the forthcoming elections are held on time.

SOMALILAND FORUM

The Somaliland Forum is a non-partisan independent think-tank that brings together Somaliland citizens in the Diaspora, who supports the sovereign, democratic and independent Somaliland. The Forum helps Somaliland Communities and friends around the globe to work together and contribute to the socio-economic and political development of the Republic of Somaliland.

Somaliland Forum executive Committee:

Chairman: Rashid Garuf - USA , Chairman@somalilandforum.com
Vice-Chairman: Abdirahman Mohamed Magan- UAE, vice@somalilandforum.com
Secretary: Cabdinaasir Haybe Farah – Canada , secretary@somalilandforum.com
Treasurer: Ismaaciil Cawed - Kenya , treasurer@somalilandforum.com
Member-at-Large: Ahmed Abdi Jama – Somaliland, xubin@somalilandforum.com

For more information about Somaliland Forum, please visit:

www.somalilandforum.org



URURKA SOMALILAND FORUM: War-saxaafadeed

Summad: SF/CLC/28/07

Taariikh: 28/07/2007

Somaliland Meeli ugama Bannaana Maxaabiis Siyaasadeed

Dhismaha iyo hirgelinta dimuqraadiyad laga yagleelayo dal aan la aqoonsanayn oo dakhligiisuna aad u yaryahay ma'aha hawl sina u fudud, laakiin Somaliland waxay qabsatay waxyaabo badan oo loo haystay wax aaney qabsan Karin. Saddex doorasho guud ayaynu soo hirgelinay, waxaanaynu kaabiga u saarannahay wareeggii amma markii labaad ee doorashooyinka dawladaha hoose iyo tii madaxtooyada. Horumarkaa la taaban karo ee aynu ka hirgelnay mandaqad aan ku dhaqanka dimuqraadiyadda dhaqan u lahayni waa inaanu noqon mid ku shaashooba tallaabo qaldan oo ay xukuumaddu ku dhaqaaqday.

Waxa aynu dan moodnay inaynu yeelanno distoor ku koobaya tirada axsaabta siyaasadda saddex (in kastoo siduu ururkani hore u sheegay uu khalad u arkayay qodobkan, haddana taa ayaa dan la mooday iyada oo laga fa'iidayanayo wixii la soo maray 1960maadkii), laakiin isla markaa ma jiro qodob distoori ah amma xeer ka farcamay distoor ka oo qeexaya in axsaabta siyaasadda ee dalku ahaanayaan uun saddexda xisbi ee immika jira (UDUB, KULMIYE & UCID) oo iyagu ah kuwii ku soo baxay doorashadii dawladaha hoose ee dalka ka dhacday 2002. Haddaba immika oo ay inagu soo fool leeyihiin doorashooyin kale ma arkayno meel ay ururka Qaran iyo ilaa immika labada urur ee kale ee lagu dhawaaqay kaga hor imanayaan qodobka distooriga ah ee axsaabta siyaasadda ku xaddidaya saddex xisbi siyaasadeed, balse hoggaamiyayaasha Ururka Qaran waxay doonayaan uun inay helaan xaqoodii distooriga ahaa ee u oggolaanayay inay isu habayn karaan ururro siyaasadeed si ay nasiibkooda uga qaadaan doorashooyinka dawladaha hoose ee dhici doona bisha Diisember 2007.

Waxay ku doodayaan inaanu jirin sharci iska hortaagaya hawlaha ay wadaan, waxaanay ku andacoonayaan inay dawladda tahay ta distoorkii iyo sharciyadii dalka ku tumanaysa ee ka warwareegaysa inay fuliso waajibkii ka saarnaa inay dib u furto xafiiskii diiwaan gelinta ururrada siyaasadda ee la xidhay 6 bilood ka dib doorashadii dawladaha hoose ee 2002.

Cid ku raacsan arrintan iyo cid kaga soo horjeeddaba, waxa marka horeba wax aan sina loo aqbali karin ah in muwaadin ku hawlan inuu si nabadgelyo le ugu dhaqmo xaqiisii distooriga ahaa uu wasiir ka tirsan xukuumadda oo ka xubin ka ah saddexda xisbi ee dalka ka jira mid ka mid ahi uu ku tilmaamo inay nimankani yihiin danbiilayaal bixiyana amar xabsiga loogu taxaabo. Guddoomiyaha Ururka Qaran Dr.Moxammed Cabdi Gabboose iyo labada Guddoomiye ku-xigeen Maxamed Xaashi Cilmi iyo Jamaal Caydiid oo taariikhdu markay ahayd 28/07/2007 loo dhaadhiciyay xabsiga mandheera waxay shaki la'an noqdeen maxaabiistii siyaasadeed ee ugu horraysay ee lagu xidho Somaliland.

Ururka Somaliland Forum:

1. Wuxu si xoogle u canbaaraynayaa xadhiga lagula kacay saddexda muwaadin, waxaanu ku baaqayaa in si dhakhso ah, oo bilaa shuruud ah xorriyaddoodii loogu soo celiyo.

2. Wuxu si wayn uga digayaa in, mar hadii aanay jirin danbiyo ku xusan Xeerka Diiwaan-gelinta Ururrada Siyaasadda (Xeer Lr.14/200), ku soo oogidda muwaadiniintan lagu soo oogo dacwad ku salaysan "danbiyadda laga galo qaranaka" ee ku xusan Xeerka Ciqaabta Guud (Penal Code) ay tahay talaabo aan habooneyn oo aan sina la aqbalikarin.
3. Wuxu ugu baaqayaa guddiyada joogtada ah ee labada aqal ee baarlamaanku inay qabanqaabiyaan fadhi ay ku dhegeystaan dhinacyada ku muransan arrintan ee xukuumadda iyo ururka Qaran, ururrada siyaasadda, iyo ururrada bulshada (civil society) si loo gorfeeyo siday suurto gal u tahay in dib loo magacaabo guddidii diiwaan gelinta ururrada siyaasadda sida ku cad qodobka labaad ee xeer Lr.14/2000, warbixinna u soo gudbiyaan fadhiyada labada Gole muddo aan ka badnayn 4 toddobaad gudahood.
4. Wuxu rumaysan yahay in ay habka dimuqraadiyadda saldhig u tahay in xadiddada ka qaybqaadashada doorashooyinku ay mabda' ahaan noqoto mid ku kooban uun waxyaabaha lagama maarmaanka u ah bulsho ku dhisan dimuqraadiyad dhab ah, sidaa daraadeed in mar kasta lagu xadido ka qayb gelaka doorashooyinka 3da xisbi ee markaa jiraa ay tahay arrin ka soo horjeedda dimuqraadiyadda iyo xuquuqda muwaadinkaba.
5. Wuxu ugu baaqayaa xukuumadda Somaliland inay joojiso xoogga ay adeegsanayso ee ay muwaadiniinta kaga horjoogsanayso xuquuqda is abaabulka iyo xorriyaddii ra'ayi dhiibashada, isla markaana ay iska dayso canbaaraynta ay la daba taagantahay ciddii wax ka sheegta.
6. Wuxu ku dardaarayaa muwaadiniinta Somaliland guud ahaan, gaar ahaanna ciddii doonaysa inay ururro siyaasadeed habeystaan, inay ilaaliyaan nabadgelyada iyo xasilloonida guud.
7. Wuxu ka codsanayaa xukuumadda inay tallaabooyin degdeg ah oo lagu xoojinayo madaxbannaanida waaxda garsoorka si dhakhso loo qaado, gaar ahaana Madaxweynuhu, si dhakhso ah u saxeexo Xeerka Nidaamka Garsoorka oo muddo saddex sannadood ah ku caddilnaa saddexda Gole dhexdooda.
8. Wuxu ku dhiirri gelinayaa labada aqal ee baarlamaanka iyo madaxweynahaba inay qaadaan tallaabooyinka lama huraanka ah ee loo baahanyahay in la qaado si doorashooyinka soo socdaa ay xilligii loogu talo-galay u qabsoomaan.

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Ururka Somaliland Forum waa urur madaxbannaan oo ay isku bahaysteen qurba-joog reer Somaliland ahi. Waxa uu ururkani aaminsan yahay qarannimada, horumarka iyo madaxbannaanida Somaliland, waxanu iskaashi la sameeyaa jaalliyadaha Somaliland ee dalka dibaddiisa ku dhaqan iyo waliba ciddii kale ee danaysa horumarka Somaliland. Ururkani wuxu rumaysanyahay in dadka reer Somaliland ee dibaduhu ay door ka ciyaari karaan horumarinta dalkooda.

Waxaad kaloo la soo xidhiidhi kartaa xubnaha Gudiga Dhexe ee Somaliland Forum oo ah:

Gudoomiye: Rashid Garuf - USA , Chairman@somalilandforum.com

Ku-Xigeen: Abdirahman Mohamed Magan- UAE, vice@somalilandforum.com

Xoghaye: Cabdinaasir Haybe Farah – Canada , secretary@somalilandforum.com

Xisaabiye: Ismaaciil Cawed - Kenya , treasurer@somalilandforum.com

Xubin Guud: Ahmed Abdi Jama – Somaliland, xubin@somalilandforum.com

Faahfaahin: www.somalilandforum.org