

U.S. Secretary of State
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. House Committee on International Relations
U.N. Secretary General
President of European Commission
Secretary General of the Council of the European Union
Chairperson of Commission of African Union
British Prime Minister
Secretary General of the League of Arab States

Re: unwelcome newly appointed warlord president in Somalia

Dear honorable Secretary:

Somali people have fought for freedom and democracy. Long civil war and anarchy were the effects of the people's uprising against the former military dictator regime. Lack of effective and efficient local political organizations and the wishes of Ethiopia and Italy supporting warlords on power were the reasons of failure for Somalia to join the democratic world in the past decade.

Mr. Secretary, Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia are three neighbor countries to Somalia and are the major allies siding with warlords of opposing factions in the country. In my view, Italy and some other countries of interest are standing behind these three frontline countries to help establishing a balance of war rather than peace in Somalia. Each one of the frontline countries is tempted by foreign aid money for Somalia as well as the aid they gain because they cooperate with the policy of their former colonizers. These frontline countries organized a Somali Reconciliation Conference in Kenya for their own purposes. The participants were those who were allied with these countries. Proper representation was not the criteria of choice, membership in armed gangs, Bribes, and clan affiliation rather than ideology were the main principals at work during the process of selecting the new parliament. The new representatives are willing to govern the country by exile, staying in luxury hotels in Nairobi and spending lavishly the aid money intended for the needy people. The truth is that they do not actually represent the people they claim to represent. Why do they not go to their counties and states to convince the people and continue the reconciliation process instead of rushing to ask aid money and foreign troops?

Colonel Abdulahi Yusuf was the winner of this corrupted parliamentary election process. The elected man has a history of human rights abuse and dictatorship for the past thirty years. This secessionist and tribal warlord is not a national figure. He is the right hand of the late General Aidid and a pro Ethiopian military man who opposed Operation Restore Hope led by U.S. troops in 1992-1995 in Somalia. He is not a man of peace and reconciliation, but rather a divider instead of uniter. He will rule the country with iron fist and extend his power by force to Mogadishu and Hargeisa. He asked the dictatorial regime in Addis Ababa to support him with Tigryan troops to fight along with his clan affiliated militiamen to capture Mogadishu first and then Hargeisa. Disarming can only

come successful if only people accept peacefully to hand over their arms. Any external troops such as these could only mean handing the power over to a warlord dictator.

Your honor, the population in Mogadishu and Hargeisa are not satisfied with the outcome of that misrepresented parliament. It was a shock to them hearing the list of the nominated parliamentarians and the warlord president. They do not trust him or his allies behind the scenes. The majority in the country are unwilling to cooperate with any military ruler and his government. The people in Central Regions, Central South, and North believe that they are misrepresented by compromised, corrupted leaders who are seeking their own interest and playing political games of their own without the consent of the people who they claim to represent. A well known example is the representatives from North, they do not have even the courage to visit their homes in Hargeisa, leave it alone to meet their constituents in large. These biased parliamentarians will further inflame the tension between south and north. What is the use then to nominate someone who does not have the power to represent his people or can not show or seek any support from the people of his region to the job he was elected for?

Your Excellency, Somali people are tired of repeated cycles of government led by clansmen, religious men, corrupt civilians, military rulers and warlords. And today, most of our intellectuals believe that Somalia may fail again under the control of military dictatorship if the International Community does support the exile government led by Colonel Abdulahi Yusuf. It is very important to consider the political will of the civilians and not those who led the criminal gangs and clan militiamen. It is also important to consider the ongoing internal process of establishing reconciliation and the balance of power. The structured rebirth of the nation is not an easy task and needs a long time to heal the people's broken trust. There is absolutely no need to rush for foreign intervention. Most people predict that the tribe-minded warlord, Abdulahi, will prioritize building up his military forces in order to oppress his opponents. He will undermine the principles of the rule of law and of good governance instead of giving priority to the principles of democracy. Picking the side of clannish and religiously affiliated governance is repeating the mistakes of the past decade, a decade of civil war in Somalia.

There are no true representatives of the Somali people in the Parliament, as those representatives were elected by warlords who sold their votes. There was no clean election for this presidency. Therefore I hope that you should consider more carefully the background history of the executive and his legislative cohort. Supporting a government led by a warlord and partners in blood shed seems to disrespect the wishes of the majority. It may excite many armed popular uprisings. Siding with the warlord president will not help at all with fighting the war on terrorism but can only inflame animosities. I believe the situation in Somalia will get much worse if the neighbor countries and those behind them impose an outside government on the Somali people.

Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for your time, effort, and consideration.

Dr. Said Mohamud

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