

Press Release:

Delegation of Authority within the indigenous people of the Benadir of Southern Somalia and the Deployment of Foreign Troops to Somalia

February 24, 2005

The statement made by Malaaq Buuwe Muudde recently to a local tabloid (Dayniile February 22, 2005), in which he rejected, on behalf of the Benadiri people of Southern Somalia, the deployment of foreign non-Muslim troops to Somalia, is exclusively his own. Mr. Buuwe's statement does not reflect the views of the Benadiri community as there has never been any meeting, in the past nor in the present, of representative Benadiri clan personalities, on this important subject.

To the extent that the deployment of foreign troops to the Somali soil constitutes a serious matter which would inevitably have a direct impact on the lives of the Benadiri people, one way or another, it is imperative that they must have a say on the subject, at a time of their own choosing, and in accordance with their own interests and with the interests of the nation. A national question of such magnitude must not be seen through the lenses of parochial clan or family interests, limited to accommodate the interests of forces of questionable moral standing, in exchange for favors, including favors for political career.

Further, the gross irregularities of the Mbigathi Conference (2004), the corruption, the embezzlement of Benadiri seats, and the alienation of vast sections of the Benadiri representatives in the conference, constitute grounds for rejecting the usual arrogant and unaccountable methods of representation. It is important to note that similar fraudulent schemes were used to seize Benadiri seats in the Arte Conference of 2000. These methods, very often adopted by individuals of divided loyalty, cannot fulfill the needs of the Benadiri people for unity and for securing their political, economic, and social rights inside the country.

The record wants that Malaaq Buuwe Muudde was present both in Arte and Nairobi. It is up to him to explain to the Benadiri people as to what went wrong, what he did to prevent the embezzlement of Benadiri representation rights, and what his current position is on the matter. The Benadiri people have a right to know the answers to these questions, including the right to the restoration of their representation rights as a pre-condition for future cooperation.

The title "Duubka Duubabka", which means "Chief of Chiefs", as claimed by Malaaq Buuwe Muudde, has no place neither in the history nor in the customary law of the Benadiri people.

To keep the record straight, the indigenous people of the Benadir of Southern Somalia, inside and outside the country, did not, neither in the past, nor in the present, delegate Malaaq Buuwe Muudde to represent their interests in any capacity, officially or unofficially.

Benadir-Watch