



The Nordic Union of Somali Peace and Development Organisations

Invitation to the Second Conference on Peace, Dialogue and Combating Radicalization

Date: 13th -14th January 2011

The Venue: Clarion Hotel Royal Christiania
Biskop Gunnerus' gate 3
NO-0155 Oslo
Norway
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Description

This is a follow-up conference that aims at raising further awareness about the radical Islamic groups of Somalia and developing appropriate strategies to counter the threats posed by these groups that are increasing their influences and strengths in south-central parts of Somalia.

These groups were holding the civilians in Somalia hostage, carrying out extra-judiciary summary executions, amputations, stoning, imprisonment, extortion, forced marriages, use of child soldiers, killing aid workers and preventing local and international NGOs from providing humanitarian aid to those in need.

Moreover, the aforementioned radical Islamic groups have recently started to recruit youngsters from Diaspora Somali communities, train them and use them as suicide bombers and fighters, not only against the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the peace-keepers deployed by the African Union but also increasingly to carry out terrorist attacks beyond Somali borders as witnessed in Uganda on 11th July 2010.

Therefore the conference aims to bring together relevant authorities, institutions, organisations and individuals to address the following key relevant issues:

- Discuss which preventive strategies and actions that can best work in order to counter the problems of radicalization and possible terrorist activities
- Find out why and how some Somali Diaspora- youth are supporting radical Islamic movements
- Discuss how to prevent recruitment of Somali youth to the radical movements
- Identify how the Somali Diaspora in Scandinavia can support and strengthen the position of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG)
- Discuss how to prevent a power vacuum that might prevail in the wake of the end of TGF's term of office, i.e. August 2011

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The Conference program

The first day of the conference will be held in English.

Day 1: Thursday, 13 January 2011

- 08.30-09.00 Registration and breakfast
- 09.00-09.15 Opening and welcoming statement on behalf of the organizers by **Eng. Abdi Ashur Hassan**, *The Coordinator of The Nordic Union of the Somali Peace and Development Organisations.*
- 09.15-09.40 Formal welcoming and opening remarks by **H.E Espen Bart Eide**, The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Part 1: The current and the future security & political situation in Somalia towards August 2011 and beyond.

- 09.40-10.10 Obstacles and challenges that TFG faces in order to bring peace and reconciliation into Somalia, **H.E Mohamed Abdullahi Omaar**, The Somali Minister of Foreign Affairs, Somalia
- 10.10-10.40 The role of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) on the peace and the reconciliation efforts in Somalia, **Representative from the office** of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Somalia.
- 10.40-10.55 Coffee/Tea break.
- 10.55-11.25 The support of the EU to peace and humanitarian efforts in Somalia and How can the Somali Diaspora actively engage the peace and the reconciliation efforts in Somalia. **H.E. Nur Hassan Hussein**, Somali ambassador to the EU.
- 11.25-11.55 The importance of Mogadishu in terms of security, humanitarian-aid and anti-radicalization efforts in Somalia. **H.E. Mr. Mohamud Ahmed Tarsan**, Governor of Mogadishu, the capital city of Somalia.
- 1.50-12.50 Plenary discussion on the current and future (toward August 2011 and beyond) political situation in Somalia and how to bring a sustainable peace, security and stability in the capital city of Somalia, Mogadishu. *The participants of this plenary discussion are the above key speakers.*
- 12.50-13.55 Lunch break



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Part 2: Radicalization in Somalia? Need for preventive action

- 13.55 - 14.20 The position of moderate Islamic teachings on terrorism in peaceful societies. **H.E. Dr. Asmat Mojaddedi**, chairman of Muslim Council in Denmark.
- 14.20-14.45 A Lesson from Missing Somali American Youth: From Victims to Accountable Citizens. **Ibrahim A. Noor**, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.
- 14.45-15.10 Does the Al-Shabab movement represent a new form of radicalism in Somalia? **Mr. Abdi Aynte** a Somali academic and a news editor, Al-Jazeera TV, Doha, Qatar.
- 15.10-15.35 How strong is the relation between Al-shabab and Al-Qaeda? And which preventive/ disengagement strategies and measures can best work to counter the problems of radicalization and possible terrorist activities? **Michael Taarnby**, terrorism researcher, Denmark.
- 15.35-15.50 Coffee/Tea break
- 15.50-16.30 Plenary discussion on the threats from the extremists and de-radicalization of the young Somalis in the Nordic countries. *The participants of this plenary discussion are the above key speakers on this subject.*
- 16.30-16.45 Closing remarks for day 1
- 19:00-22.00 Dinner



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The Conference program

Day 2: Friday, 14 January 2011, Part 1: Conference language will be English

Somali Diaspora's role and support in the peacebuilding process in Somalia

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| 08.30-09.00 | Breakfast |
| 09.00-09.05 | Opening remarks |
| 09.05-09.20 | Norway's support to peace/humanitarian efforts in Somalia and Norway's effort on strengthening the Diaspora's role in the peace and rehabilitation development activities in Somalia. H.E. Kjell Harald Dalen , Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway |
| 09.20-09.45 | How can the Somalia Diaspora in Scandinavia contribute to peace building efforts in Somalia, Cindy Horst , senior-researcher PRIO, Norway |
| 09.45-10.00 | Denmark's support to peace/humanitarian efforts in Somalia and Denmark's effort on strengthening the Diaspora's role in the peace and rehabilitation development activities in Somalia. H.E. Lene Schumacher , Horn of Africa Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark. |
| 10.00-10.15 | Sweden's support to peace and humanitarian efforts in Somalia and Sweden's effort on strengthening the Diaspora's role in the peace and rehabilitation development activities in Somalia. H.E. Marika Fahlen , Special envoy for the Horn of Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden. |
| 10.15-10.30 | Coffee/Tea break |
| 10.30-10.45 | Finland's support to peace/humanitarian efforts in Somalia and Finland's effort on strengthening the Diaspora's role in the peace and rehabilitation development activities in Somalia.. H.E. Kimmo Laukkonen , East Africa Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland. |
| 10.45-11.00 | The effect of war on the Somali Women and their role on the reconciliation and peace in Somalia, Amina Said , M.Sc. Molecular Biologist/Toxicologist and Member of the Somali Parliament. |



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11.00-12.00 Plenary discussion on the role of the Somali Diaspora in to the peace, reconciliation and the rehabilitation development activities in Somalia. How the Nordic countries can strengthen that role. *The participants of this plenary discussion are all the key speakers of day 1 and 2.*

12.00-12.10 Closing remarks for part 1 of day 2.

12.10-13.00 Lunch

Day 2: Friday, 14 January 2011, Part 2: Conference language will be **Somali**

The Program

16.00 – 16.30 Opening remarks By G10 and other Nordic organizations

16.30-17.00 Obstacles and challenges that TFGS faces in order to bring peace into Somalia, **H.E Mohamed Abdullahi Omaar**, The Somali Minister of Foreign Affairs, Somalia

17.00-17.30 The Role of the Somali Diaspora communities in Europe including the Nordic countries in promoting peace and security in their homeland Somalia. **H.E. Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein**, Somali ambassador to the EU (in Somali).

17.30-18.00 Examples of how the war on terrorism affects the Muslim communities in North America. **Mr. Abdi Aynte**, a Somali academic and a news editor, Al-Jazeera TV, Doha, Qatar.

18.00-18.30 The importance of Mogadishu in terms of peace, humanitarian and anti-radicalization efforts in Somalia. **H.E. Mr. Mohamud Ahmed Tarsan**, Governor of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu.

18.30-19.15 Open questions and answers session with Somali officials and academics.

19.15-19.30 Recommendations from Somali dignitaries and closing remarks