



AGRO-PASTORAL LEAGUE OF SOMALIA

For the attention of the United Nations Security Council

13 December 2008

In the interests of global security, and universal human rights, we write to you in order to make plain the inherent dangers of the adoption of the draft proposal, recently presented by the United States of America, calling for the ability to, “take all necessary measures ashore in Somalia, including in its airspace” in order to repress the pirate phenomenon of Somalia. The concept of 'Hot Pursuit' of suspected pirates on land represents, for the people of Somalia, a flagrant violation of international law. Consequently, we firmly believe that this draft proposal is something very dangerous.

This draft proposal is dangerous because it uses the flawed assumption that the use of force shall reduce the incidence of maritime hijacking events occurring in the Indian Ocean and in the Gulf of Aden. Although this is the desired end of all reasonable people, it is the considered opinion of the Agro-Pastoral League of Somalia that the adoption and implementation of this proposal, by the members of the United Nations Security Council, shall not result in the desired repression of Somali piracy. On the contrary, we believe that the adoption and implementation of this proposal shall precipitate an international crisis the likes of which we have never witnessed before.

The potential consequences of the adoption and implementation of this dangerous proposal are many, and not easily defined at the present time. However, we can say, with a good degree of certainty, that any United Nations resolution derived from this particularly dangerous draft proposal shall lead to:

1. An escalation in of the degree of violence being used by the men who are currently engaged in the business of holding vessels for ransom in Somali territorial waters.
2. A distinct increase in the probability that some of the current hostages shall lose their lives as a consequence of military operations targeting suspected

Somali pirates.

3. An actual increase in the incidence of maritime hijackings in and around Somali territorial waters.
4. An increase in Somali insurgent activities in northern Somalia stimulated by the consent given to 'Pirate Hunters' by the weak Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.
5. A marked increase in hostility towards the United Nations, and its various agencies, as a direct result of UN sanctioned military incursions into Somali national airspace and territory.
6. The complete demise of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

The potential complications that shall, in all likelihood, result from the adoption and implementation of the substance of this proposal are obviously counter-productive at any rate. For the time being, we believe that UN resolutions 1816 and 1838 are sufficient. Anything more represents a dangerous deviation from the accepted norms of international law. Furthermore, articles 100 to 107 of THE LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION (1982) deal specifically with piracy and its repression on the high seas.

In the interests of peace, and the security of the Somali people, the Agro-Pastoral League of Somalia would urge all members of the United Nations Security Council to vote against the adoption and implementation of the substance of this proposal on Tuesday 16th December 2008. We believe that a more imaginative approach to tackling the root causes of this problem are desirable if we are to genuinely eradicate the phenomenon of Somali piracy. It is absolutely vital that members of the international community reflect soberly upon these matters and, in this way, we sincerely hope that the best possible solution to the problem at hand is ultimately found.

OSMAN ABSHIR EGAL

a.p.l.somalia@googlemail.com