

CSOs/ Networks Informal Meeting on Somalia current situation.

Venue: Peace and Human Rights Network (PHRN) office in Mogadishu

Date: Thursday, October, 23, 2008.

Today, Thursday, 23rd October, A call of meeting occurred in Peace and Human Rights Network in Mogadishu, 30 NGOs/ Networks have attended the meeting with solidarity statement towards current conflict situation in Somalia. I have delivered the Organisations Representatives the importance of the advocacy that African Democracy Forum is supporting to Somalis.

The core objective of the meeting was how best we can raise the advocacy solidarity of African democracy Forum Network which is the biggest Building Democracy for Peace, Development, and Human Rights in Africa to the Somalia current situations.

The participants discussed the following issues:

AGENDA:

- 1- Advocacy Appeal to ADF Management Committee towards Somalia current Situation.
- 2- Specific/ Concrete actions that ADF may be able to take and to facilitate contacts persons from CSOs/Networks in Somalia with ADF Management/Coordination.
- 3- Produce and send the MOU note to ADF to refer as an advocacy statements from Somali CSOs.
- 4- Request Appeal from ADF concerning Somalia current issues for the coming ADF Management Committee meeting.
- 5- A.O.B

Introduction

Mr. Nur, invited the meeting for the CSOs/Network Members, the hosting venue held in the meeting is PHRN Office in Mogadishu. The opening of the meeting delivered short speech Mr. Abdullahi Nur, Member of ADF, Somali civil society Activist and Nonviolent Conflict Resource Person in Horn of Africa, and Executive Director of Local NGO called Community E empowerment for peace and Integrated Development (**CEPID**).

I have informed the participants that, since last year 2007, I have been networking with African Democracy Forum (**ADF**) and Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies- **IPCS** for establishing programs assessment to strategise missions to resume Somali reintegration of peace building and I have also participated international trainings like: IPCS Organised, International training on conflict resolutions, peace-keeping, peace building, post conflict reconstructions and reconciliation process in Africa held in Dar es salam-Tanzania between 16-27 July, 2007. I was representing Somali civil society.

I have also informed the meeting, that I have attended **Regional Training on Nonviolent Conflict in Africa** held in Entebbe-Uganda, between 21st -25th, April, 2008, Organised by ADF and funded by International Centre for Nonviolent Conflict(**ICNC**)- **in U.S.A.** and facilitated by **CANVAS** institute of Serbia. There was also present by National Endowment for Democracy (**NED**). All those training were to enable the civil society in Africa to evolve culture of nonviolent conflict, so , I urged the session, that it is important to network with Africa and worldwide community to obtain lobbying and advocacy to solve our problems with mediation, healing and social change into nonviolent culture.

I have addressed the momentum of this meeting is to request **ADF** to make advocacy for the current situation in Somalia, I asked this **ADF** Management Committee and this statement will support them to see our drive mood for the importance and urgency of the critical issue.

Lastly, we agreed that local CSOs/Networks propose the advocacy statement from Somalia current issues to ADF; then ADF will raise our solidarity voice to Regional and international concerned Parts: like **IGAD, AU, Somalia contact Group countries, UN and International Community.**

The discussions started as follows:

Prof. Abukar Sh. Nur, PHRN Audit Committee Member, noted the need of social change in Somali people in the prolonged conflicts, he stated that it is important to remember that if Somalis do not go back to their

culture, traditions, religion and values, it is not possible to achieve national reconciliation process. Because he reminded the participants that imported way of mediation and reconciliation is not applicable to resume law and order. So, I recommend international organisations or community support Somali Civil Society Organisation to initiate peace process with traditional elders and even negotiate warring parts victimised to the innocent civilians.

Ms. Qamar salad Omar, Somali women journalist Organisation (SOWJO), presented to the meeting the role of media in disseminating peace programs in current situation, she urged the media programs on peace should be ideal and supportive to community peace-building.

Mrs. Sahra Mohamed Ahmed, Coalition of women Grass-root Organisation (COGWO), Executive Director, expressed the problems of innocent civilian attacks in the current conflicts in Mogadishu.

Mr. Abdulkadir Khalif from SOGDA organisation contributed to the statement with to raise and empower people's voice in order to achieve effective government.

Mrs. Sahra Omar Malin, PHRN Vice chairperson, stated that the government is not responding the needs of the people because they have internal conflict between the Government institutions (the parliament, the executive and the judiciary which is not completely in place at this time). The other thing noted is that TFG is not respecting the CSOs and the freedom of expression. i.e. she said, the Government is not following with the alienated charter they have written.

Mr. Yusuf Ali Osman, National Media Congress, pointed out that local media is to direct the people into peace building programs instead of war oriented propaganda news from radio stations and news letters.

The statement agreed is written below:

Somali CSO/Networks Solidarity Statements

- 1- Support the peace process; in order to achieve effective government that can respond to public needs.
- 2- The people's voice desires and longing for a stable nation; must be supported; especially by encouraging the traditional means of peace-building.
- 3- Direct media disseminations into positive method; that promotes to the society in nonviolent conflict strategy, democracy and good governance.
- 4- Somali CSOs/Networks appeal to ADF, Democracy and Human rights organisations in Africa and around the world to join efforts of Somali civil society to defend rights of the people, advance further democratic values; ensure the immediate restoration of peace and stability in the country.
- 5- Urge IGAD, AU, Somalia Contact Group(Countries), UN and International Community support the current peace and reconciliation process" Djibouti" between Transitional Federal Government(TFG) and Oppositions(United Alliances). And pressure them to come up resolutions to stop tyranny wars in the innocent civilians.
- 6- Somali CSOs/Networks request from African CSOs/Networks call for immediate action to support and funding programs for Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (**DDR**) for young people (**Youth**) in order to stop them practicing armed forces, immigration dynamics and use of drug abuses.
- 7- Condemn any kind of violence against civilians and encourage the warring groups evolve to stop killing innocent people; then urge they should come on the table to discuss reconciliation and power sharing.

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