



**REPUBLIC OF**



**SOMALILAND**

## **Office of the President**

**REF: RSL/OP/UN/257-149/62018**

**Date: 18/06/2018**

**H.E. António Guterres,  
Secretary General of the United Nations,  
United Nations - (UN)**

**Your Excellency,**

Reference is made to the letter (attached) from the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Somalia and Somaliland and the Head of UNSOM dated 10 June 2018. This letter is in response to our previous letter dated on 28 May, and addressed to the SG regarding the on-going conflict between Somalia and Somaliland in Tukaraq area.

I want to inform you, Mr. Secretary General that we are not happy with the Special Representative's letter to us, which we find one-sided response, inaccurate as to the facts, disrespectful in tone, and not helpful at all. First, we already clearly indicated to the Special Representative that we fully accept the main three points he raised in his letter as desired to contain the conflict - cessation of hostilities, full access to humanitarian assistance, establishment of communication between military commanders on the ground. We shared with him when he visited us here on 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 2018. I want to assure you that we are ready to comply with them if the other side agrees and complies. Second, he seems dismissive of all that Somaliland has achieved peace and stability, solid governance structures, and economic reconstruction and implies that we need to be engaged "in peace-building and





state-building process". It would be a mistake, as the Special Representative does, to imply that Somaliland is embarking on such a process.

As you know, Mr. Secretary General, Somaliland has been at peace for 27 years with itself and with all its neighbours, and has in fact been a bulwark against violence and terrorism in the region. It has established strong governance structures including multiple democratic elections, which were declared fair and free by international observers. It has also rebuilt its economy from the destruction brought about by the last military regime in Somalia (1988-90). The last thing we want to do is to engage in another new cycle of violence and conflict. Unfortunately, the government of Somalia seems to now be determined (by proxy) to derail that progress and destabilize the region.

Mr. Secretary General, we have enjoyed good relations with all UN agencies delivering assistance to the people of Somaliland. We hope that we can sustain those strong relations. We also hope that your current Representative, and any other future ones, does not do anything to weaken the peace and stability we worked so hard to achieve.

Regarding the conflict between Somalia and Somaliland in the area of Tukaraq, I want to point out that Somaliland is some 70 kilometres away from the border with Somalia. That border is the international boundary set in 1894 during the colonial era and further re-confirmed by the OAU (now AU) resolution of 1964, which stipulated that the colonial borders define the international boundaries that divide the independent countries in post-colonial Africa. Furthermore, we utterly concur with introducing a buffer zone between the troops along the internationally recognized colonial border between Somalia and Somaliland. At the same time, I hope the forces of Somalia refrain from instigating hostilities and subversive activities inside our borders.

Mr. Secretary General, we ask you to use your good offices to defuse potentially tragic developments where the ultimate victims are the Somali

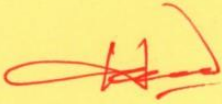




people who suffered more than their fair share of suffering, and to do so in a fair and equitable manner. We will cooperate with any efforts in that regard and I assure you that we will not initiate any hostilities but will rightly defend ourselves if attacked inside our territory.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,



**Muse Bihi Abdi**  
**President,**  
**Republic of Somaliland**

CC:

Hon. Dr. Saad Ali Shire, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Somaliland.



United Nations  Nations Unies

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SOMALIA

DATE: 10 June 2018

Excellency,

The Secretary-General has asked me to respond to your letter dated 28 May 2018 regarding the ongoing conflict in Tukaraq.

The Secretary-General is disappointed that, at a time when significant progress is being made in the peacebuilding and state-building processes among Somalis, scarce and valuable military resources that should be employed to address insecurity are instead being used in a conflict that is causing immense suffering and loss of lives. He urges all parties to commit to the four-point proposal I have shared with you, including an immediate cessation of hostilities and implementation of ceasefire arrangements; establishment of communication channels between the military commanders on the ground, allowing full access to deliver humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and the releasing of prisoners as a confidence building measure.

Regarding the content of your letter which alludes to the status of “Somaliland”, the Secretary-General wishes to advise that there are internationally established processes that should be followed by territories that aspire to achieve self-determination, recognition as a State by the international community and membership of the United Nations. The Secretary-General urges “Somaliland” to resume the stalled dialogue with Somalia in this regard.

The Secretary-General has instructed me to continue to work with all parties to end the conflict in Tukaraq and to facilitate the resumption of the Somalia-“Somaliland” dialogue.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Michael Keating  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of UNSOM

His Excellency  
Mr. Muse Bihi Abdi  
President of “Somaliland”  
Hargeisa