



Press Statement

Hargeisa, Somaliland
21st August, 2019

The Government of Republic of Somaliland expresses its deep alarm and regret over the flagrant and vicious attack by Puntland Militia on a convoy of Somaliland officials, including the Governor of Badhan, as it passed through the Hadaftimo District of the Sanaag Region yesterday around 12:45pm. Such actions represent a dangerous and regressive step in previously improving relations between Somaliland and Somalia's regional administration of Puntland, following several goodwill gestures, including the recent transfer of war prisoners.

The Somaliland Government calls on its neighbour, Somalia, along with its regional administration of Puntland, to respect the four-point agreement brokered by the United Nations and IGAD, which Somaliland continues to comply with to this day. This includes "(1) refraining acts of provocation; (2) immediate cessation of hostilities and the implementation of ceasefire arrangements; (3) the establishment of communication channels between the military commanders on the ground; and (4) the allowance of full access to deliver humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and releasing of prisoners as a confidence building measure." With today's actions, Somaliland's counterpart in the agreement – the various authorities of Somalia have shown a disregard for efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.

Yesterday's act further demonstrates the lack of respect by Somalia and its regional administrations over the sanctity of colonial borders, which forms the basis for the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty enshrined in the OAU (now AU) Resolution of 1964. In the context of international law, Sool and Sanaag are integral parts of Somaliland, falling within the international boundaries set in 1894 through colonial treaty. Somaliland Government officials reserve the right to travel and perform their duties within such territories without being subject to interference or aggression by any foreign actor, including the Somalia Government. Today's attack on individuals lawfully administering governance and development within their respective jurisdiction not only closes down space for neighbourly cooperation on issues related to the border, but also puts the lives and development prospects of innocent civilians at risk

