



Federal Republic of Somalia
House of the People
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

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Date: 25/07/2024

To: Hon. Mr. Jocelyn Mason - UNDP Somalia
To: ALL UN Agencies - Somalia
To: ALL International NGO - Somalia
To: Hon. James Swam - UN Somalia
Cc: Speaker of the House of People and the Senate
Cc: President of the Federal Republic of Somalia
Cc: Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia
Cc: Oversight Committee of the House of People and the Senate
Cc: Finland Embassy – Somalia
Cc: Norway Embassy – Somalia
Cc: US Embassy – Somalia
Cc: EU Embassy - Somalia
Cc: Denmark Embassy - Somalia
Cc: Sweden Embassy - Somalia
Cc: UK Embassy - Somalia
Cc: Netherland Embassy - Somalia
Cc: Italy Embassy - Somalia

Subject: Condemnation of UNDP's Unjust Decision to Cancel Borama Retreat

Dear Your Excellency Hon. Mr. Jocelyn Mason,

I am writing this letter to you as a Member of Parliament representing the **Awdal Region and Gebileh District** regarding the recent, indefensible decision by the UNDP to cancel the scheduled retreat in Borama, Awdal. I am appalled by the email sent by **Ms. Jelena Raketic, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (Operations)**, informing staff that the retreat was canceled due to circumstances beyond their control. This decision is not only deeply troubling but outright unacceptable.

Borama was chosen for this retreat because it is one of the safest cities in Somalia, where people walk the streets at any hour without fear for their safety. It is a city where community members value neighborly safety, where elders, business communities, intellectuals, civil society, and all citizens abide by tradition and the rule of law. It is a place where Somalis from **Kismayo, Baydhabo, Mogadishu, Jowhar, Dhusamareeb, Galkayo, Garowe, Las Anod, Buroa, Zayla**, and beyond can live peacefully and are treated as equals. Borama is an inclusive city where anyone can buy property or enroll their children in some of the top schools and universities in Somalia.

The decision to cancel the retreat without consulting the elected **Mayor, Borama District Council, elders, community leaders, civil society, and Islamic clergy** is not just reckless, it is a slap in the face to all those who uphold peace and inclusivity in Borama. This action by the UNDP is a gross violation of its responsibility to serve all Somali citizens. It is blatantly clear that this decision was influenced by the corrupt and illegitimate regime that seeks to monopolize international donations for the benefit of their own tribe, callously neglecting the rest of the country. This pattern of marginalization has persisted for the past 33 years while international donors shamefully turn a blind eye to the looting, misappropriation, and mistreatment faced by my constituency.

We are already grappling with the **President of the Federal Republic of Somalia** violating the agreed **4.5** distribution of top government positions by allocating every post to the same illegitimate regime in Hargeisa. The UNDP and other international bodies are disgracefully complicit in this marginalization by diverting development projects away from my constituency. As long as I am a Member of Parliament, I will fight tooth and nail for my constituency and other marginalized constituencies. I will not hesitate to directly engage with international donors to expose and share our plight.

International donor projects for Somalia, especially in the northern regions, have consistently bypassed my constituency. Even small donations I secured from **WHO** and **IOM** have been obstructed by the regime, which greedily seeks to benefit its own constituency alone. The only project approved by the **African Development Bank** to build the road from **Loyada to Borama** has been derailed by this same regime.

It is the duty of the UNDP to stand against this gross marginalization and uphold its commitment to all Somali citizens by not canceling the approved retreat in

Borama. We will not accept relocating the retreat to **Hargeisa** or **Buroa**, as this would unjustly benefit the regime's own constituency at the expense of ours.

Should the UNDP succumb to this disgraceful level of partiality, thereby violating the **UN Charter**, I will be compelled to bring a motion against the UNDP and its officials who refused to honor the retreat in Borama. I will ensure this matter is brought to the floor of parliament for a full hearing.

If the UNDP decides to comply with this illegitimate regime and violate the UN Charter, I will have no choice but to bring a motion against the UNDP and call for a parliamentary hearing. I am giving you and your office **48 hours** to respond to this letter. Failure to respond will be seen as a flagrant violation of the rights to conduct business in Somalia.

The UNDP must understand that the funds it receives on behalf of Somalia belong to all Somali citizens, regardless of region. By yielding to a single-minded, tribal regime, the UNDP breaks the fundamental requirement of international taxpayer funds entrusted to your organization. This abuse of power to marginalize certain communities must end. I assure you that those responsible for this shameful behavior will be held accountable.

This is also a stern warning to all UN agencies and international NGOs: if you do not allocate funds equitably and continue to abide by an illegitimate regime that marginalizes my constituency or any other constituencies, I will take action to cancel your certifications to operate in Somalia. You are all violating the rights of Somali citizens to receive development projects funded in their name.

I look forward to your immediate and affirmative response.

Sincerely,
Yours sincerely,



Dr. Abdillahi Hashi Abib - *BA, MA, MASC, Ph.D*

Member of Foreign Affairs Committee
Federal Republic of Somalia the House of People
Mogadishu, Somalia
MP- HOP #201 Awdal Region and Gebileh District
Leader of the Accountability and Transparency Caucus of the House of People

Ms. Jelena Raketec, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (Operations)

Dear colleagues,

This is to inform you that all staff retreat planned for next week in Somaliland, will not take place this year, due to circumstances which are beyond our control.

The senior management is still committed in organizing all staff event in August, although the retreat format might change due to this last-minute charge.

The retreat committee is looking now into alternative and viable options, which will be presented to you shortly.

Thank you very much for all your active work and engagement so far!

More details will be shared soon.

Jelena