

**DOWLAD GOBOLEEDKA JUBALAND
EE SOOMAALIYA
WASAARADA DASTUURKA
& ARIMAHA FEDERAALKA**



**JUBALAND STATE OF SOMALIA
Ministry Of Constitution
& Federal Affairs
Office of The State Minister**

**دولة إقليم جوبالاند الصومالية
وزارة الدستور والشؤون الفيدرالية**

REF: MoCFA/00165/JSS/2019

Date: 25th Sep 2019

To: Mr. James Swan
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia
and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

cc: H.E Ahmed Mohamed Islam
President of Jubbaland State of Somalia
Kismayo, Jubbaland

Ms. Rosemary A. DiCarlo
Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs
United Nations, New York

**Re: Somali Federal Government unlawful and Inhumane Disruption and
Air blockade of the Jubaland Region**

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Jubbaland State of Somalia regarding the illegal and alarming blockade of Jubbaland by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS).

Since the FGS expelled Nicholas Haysom, the previous Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General to Somalia, we are very concerned that the International Partners have become hesitant to denounce or resist the FGS unconstitutional, illegal and inhumane actions against Jubbaland and other Federal Member States (FMSs). The inaction of the UN and the International Partners in the face of clear FGS overreach, contempt for the rule of law, and abuse of the human rights of Somali citizens threatens the disintegration of the nation.

Since the re-election of President Ahmed Mohamed Islam in a largely free and fair presidential election, President Farmaajo, Prime Minister Kheyre, and NISA Director General Fahad Yasin, with the support of several foreign states, have escalated their campaign of intimidation, violence, arbitrary arrests and violation of the human rights of innocent Somali citizens of Jubbaland as part of proxy war that seeks to reverse the election result. The FGS has also imposed travel restrictions on Jubbaland that are disrupting the livelihoods and delivery of humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of citizens, including Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and other vulnerable groups. FGS has framed this repression under the guise of promoting democratic process and rule of law in order to confuse the situation and to silence critics.

One dimension of this illegal campaign of repression against the government and people of Jubbaland involves the FGS abuse of its control over Somalia's airspace: all commercial flights to

Jubbaland are now required to transit Mogadishu, where passengers are routinely harassed, humiliated and detained. Moreover, in recent days, all flights to Kismayo have been banned in order to prevent Somali leaders and foreign dignitaries from attending the inauguration of Jubbaland's elected president. These punitive measures not only violate the basic rights of the citizens of Jubbaland, but have also contributed to the health risks civilians face through shortages of basic medical supplies and denial of travel for medical reasons. Sick patients at Kismayo hospitals are waiting longer for lifesaving medical procedures and treatments, or may not receive such care at all. In our assessment, over 70% of the households in Jubbaland will severely or moderately face food insecurity within the next 30-60 days if FGS travel restrictions on Jubbaland are not removed.

There are no constitutional or legal justifications for FGS sanctions against Jubbaland. On the contrary, they are simply the most recent and vicious measures in the FGS's systematic campaign to subvert the Provisional Constitution, hijack democratic processes in each FMS and pave the way for either a rigged election or unconstitutional extension of President Farmaajo's term of office. In pursuit of these reckless and criminal objectives, the FGS leadership is instigating an economic and humanitarian crisis in Jubbaland, for which we demand that President Farmaajo, Prime Minister Kheyre, and DG Fahad Yasin, together with their cabinet appointee, Transportation Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Salad, be held collectively and individually responsible. We call upon the United Nations, European Union and African Union, as well as other international partners, not to stand idly by while the FGS leadership embarks on a campaign of destabilization and collective punishment against the state and population of Jubbaland. We also urge the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and independent international watchdogs such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International to bear witness to these unlawful, inhumane and perilous actions and hold the FGS leadership to account.

Failure to act on the part of our international partners would not only be a dereliction of legal, moral and humanitarian duty, but would also leave the government and people of Jubbaland, as well as other FMS that have fallen victim to the FGS repression and abuse, to take matters into their own hands and resist Somalia's dangerous slide towards dictatorship and disintegration.


Ahmed A. Hassan
State Minister
Ministry of Constitution and Federal Affairs
Jubbaland State of Somalia



Copy: AU, AMISOM, EU, IGAD, Embassies of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International.