



THE MINISTER

10 May 2016

Natacha Foucard
Officer-in-Charge
Special Procedures Branch
OHCHR
Geneva

Dear Ms. Foucard,

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 15 November, 2015 enclosing a joint appeal by five UN Special Rapporteurs and an Independent Expert about the Abdullah Ali case. I wish to express my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Unfortunately, the letter was received during a period of transition at the Ministry, and as a consequence, the letter was mislaid and was not drawn to my attention until recently.

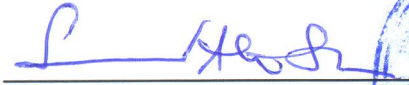
As you will be aware, Somaliland has a good record and longstanding commitment to good governance, the rule of law and fundamental human rights. We wish to reiterate our commitment to human rights as laid out in our Constitution, in particular articles 10 and 21. Somaliland is therefore eager to cooperate and improve relations with the Special Procedures branch, and recognises the importance of the branch's work.

I am grateful for the respect the Special Procedures branch has shown to the Somaliland government by bringing the concerns of the Special Rapporteurs and the Independent Expert to our attention directly. I have now raised these concerns with the Chief Justice and Minister of Justice, which are the relevant authorities responsible for the case. I have asked them to prepare a response to the allegations of the failure of due process and other matters outlined in the joint letter of appeal. I will seek to ensure that you receive a response detailing their comments, observations, and relevant further information as soon as practically possible.

I also wish to take this opportunity to recall the 'Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights of 1993' which conceived of human rights as being

indivisible, interdependent and inter-related. We have and will continue to strive to uphold international standards of human rights despite the fact that the international community continues to deprive Somaliland and its people its most basic human right – the right to self-determination, independence and statehood.

Yours sincerely,



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