

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 17/90 (AFR 52/05/90, 12 January and follow-ups AFR 52/09/90 (26 January) AFR 52/10/90 (8 February) and AFR 52/37/90 (19 October) - Fear of Unfair Trial

SOMALIA: Abdirashid Abdi Kheyre, businessman
 Farah Mohamoud Elmi, veterinary lecturer
 Mohamed Osman Farah ("Oon"), former security official
 Hassan Abdullah Hassan ("Goley"), businessman
 Mohamed Sheikh Mohamud Guleid ("Gamadeere"), businessman
 Hassan Gutale Abdullah ("Koshin"), businessman
 Abshir Ali Isse ("Dirshe")
 Mohamed Hassan Osman ("Sanweyne")
 Mohamed Osman Tifow, veterinary scientist

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It was announced on 6 November that the nine prisoners of conscience listed above were among a total of 1,122 prisoners released by presidential decree in Somalia. The announcement came in a statement by the Attorney General, who indicated that the releases were part of a general amnesty which has been declared to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the revolution in Somalia, which was on 21 October.

The nine, who were arrested in Mogadishu in mid-July 1989 and charged with political offences punishable by death, had embarked on a hunger-strike on 13 October to protest against their continued detention following the release of other political prisoners shortly before the promulgation of the new Provisional Constitution on 12 October. Protests against the continued detention of these nine political prisoners formed the focus of anti-government demonstrations in Mogadishu on 22 October. These led to two days of disturbances in which the government acknowledged that three people were shot dead and 36 injured by the security forces - the "red beret" military police. Unofficial sources put the casualties much higher.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Express and airmail letters

- welcoming the release of these nine political prisoners, considered by Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience.

LETTERS TO:

His Excellency
President Mohamed Siad Barre
President of the Somali Democratic Republic
Villa Somalia
Mogadishu, Somalia

Dr Mohamed Omar Farah
Attorney General
Attorney General's Chambers
PO Box 1745
Mogadishu, Somalia

COPIES TO: One or more of the following:

His Excellency Mohamed Ali Samatar
First Vice-President
The Presidency
Mogadishu, Somalia

Dr Abdulqasim Salad Hassan
Minister of Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Mogadishu, Somalia

Brigadier General Aden Jama ("Irday")
Commander of the National Security Service
National Security Service Headquarters
Box 432
Mogadishu, Somalia

General Ahmed Elmi Sahal
Commander of Somali Custodial Corps
Somali Custodial Corps Headquarters
PO Box 721
Mogadishu, Somalia

Dr Ahmed Hassan Sheikh
President of the Supreme Court
Supreme Court
Mogadishu, Somalia

and to diplomatic representatives of Somalia in your country service

Thanks to all those who participated in this successful appeal.

