

**Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group****REFERENCE: S/AC.29/2016/SEMG/OC.3**

17 February 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Coordinator of the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG) mandated pursuant to paragraph 31 of Security Council resolution 2244 (2015), which is attached for ease of reference.

In accordance with its mandate, the Monitoring Group is responsible for investigating, *inter alia*:

- violations of the arms embargos on Somalia and Eritrea;
- acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Somalia;
- obstruction of humanitarian assistance to Somalia;
- misappropriation of public financial resources in Somalia;
- Eritrean support for individuals and groups responsible for destabilization of, or violence in, the region;
- obstruction of the implementation of resolution 1862 (2009) concerning Djibouti;
- obstruction of the work or investigations of the Monitoring Group; and,
- violations of the ban on the exportation and importation of charcoal from Somalia.

In March 2015, the SEMG began investigating Soma Oil & Gas Holdings Limited (“Soma Oil”), a UK-based extractives company operating in Somalia since 6 August 2013. In June 2015, the SEMG shared its investigation materials with the UK’s Serious Fraud Office (SFO), which opened a criminal investigation into Soma Oil the following month. The Monitoring Group officially communicated the results of its investigation to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea in August 2015 as well as in its 2015 final report to the Security Council (S/2015/801, annex 2.5).

In the course of its Soma Oil investigation, the Monitoring Group began investigating the activities of the company’s East Africa Director and minority shareholder, Mr. Hassan Khaire, especially as they related to facilitating the bribery of public officials in Somalia. Mr. Khaire is a

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His Excellency
Mr. Geir O. Pedersen
Permanent Representative of Norway
to the United Nations
New York

cc: His Excellency, Mr. Matthew Rycroft, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

Norwegian national of Somali origin (DOB: [REDACTED]). Pursuant to this investigation, the Monitoring Group requested Mr. Khaire's bank and tax records in an official correspondence dated 18 May 2015 addressed to the Norwegian Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (AC.29/2015/SEMG/OC.13 – reattached for ease of reference) but did not receive a reply.

The Monitoring Group has since obtained Mr. Khaire's electronic contact list, which it has analysed in cooperation with a Member State that requested confidentiality. The SEMG remains concerned by Mr. Khaire's possible links to East African extremist groups, including but not limited to Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujaahidiin ("Al-Shabaab"). The Monitoring Group therefore kindly requests that the Government of Norway provide any relevant information at its disposal pertaining to Mr. Khaire's relationships with East African extremist groups, including but not limited to Al-Shabaab. The Group would be willing to provide Mr. Khaire's electronic contact list upon request.

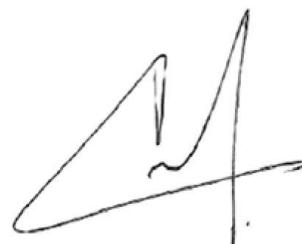
In addition, the Monitoring Group kindly requests the following materials:

- Mr. Khaire's tax records dating from fiscal year 2013;
- The list of banks of which Mr. Khaire is a client, and the corresponding banking records dating from 1 January 2013 to the present;
- A list of credit cards issued to Mr. Khaire, and the corresponding statements dating from 1 January 2013;
- A list of the Norwegian associations, NGOs, and companies of which Mr. Khaire is a board member, director, shareholder, beneficial owner, or otherwise a beneficiary.

While details of the Monitoring Group's investigation must be kept confidential at this time, members of the Group stand ready to travel to Norway and brief the relevant authorities in person. The Monitoring Group would like to highlight that all information provided will be treated as confidential. The Group would also like to state that this request does by no means imply that the Government of Norway has violated the sanctions regime on Somalia.

We would be most grateful for your reply to the Monitoring Group as soon as possible and no later than 4 March 2016 through the Secretary of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, [REDACTED] United Nations, New York, NY 10017; fax +[REDACTED]; e-mail: [REDACTED]).

Excellency, please allow me to offer you the assurances of my highest consideration.



Christophe Trajber
Coordinator

Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group
Security Council resolution 2244 (2015)