



## Awdal-Gabilay-Selel Diaspora of North America

Communiqué of January 23, 2019

**To:** Whom it may concern

**Cc:** Governor of Awdal, Republic of Somaliland  
Minister of Interior, Republic of Somaliland  
Office of the Vice-President, Republic of Somaliland  
Office of the President, Republic of Somaliland

**Object:** Situation in East Gargaara, Awdal, Somaliland

We, the Diaspora of the regions of Awdal, Gabiley and Selel of Somaliland residing in North America are appalled by the tragic events that occurred in East Gargaara in the recent weeks.

Various media reports and multiple witness accounts indicate that the Governor of Awdal unfairly ordered on 2019-01-23 the local population of Gargaara East to stop their agricultural activities that they had undertaken in their own lands to break free from a vicious cycle of famine and economic dependence.

This unfair administrative decision follows the recent attacks perpetrated by armed militia whose only goal was to disrupt the economic development of these regions and keep the local populations under a regime of dependence.

Considering that:

- 1) The local population of Gargaara East is entirely made up of survivors from the recent disaster caused by the Tropical Cyclone Sagar.
- 2) The local population of Gargaara East has yet to benefit from any sustainable economic support from the Government of Somaliland.
- 3) The local population of Gargaara East has long suffered from a succession of drought episodes that eradicated their meager livestock, while last year's Tropical Cyclone Sagar disseminated their remainder livestock.
- 4) The local population of Gargaara East has no other livelihood than to cultivate their fields, at times with rudimentary means and under hostile attacks from armed militia.
- 5) The local population of Gargaara East has strongly supported in the last elections the current party in power in a hope to help build a national unity and avoid falling for politics of fear and division.

**Therefore, we are urging the Government of the Republic of Somaliland to reconsider its decision regarding Gargaara East and provide assistance, be it logistic or humanitarian, to these people as soon as possible.**

Failing to act swiftly to repair this unfair decision, we will resort to:

- Call on the international community to stand against this injustice and undertake any correcting measures deemed appropriate for this situation in Gargaara East.
- Seize all legal forms of contestation, whether with funding organizations or with international countries, to voice our rejection of this orchestrated plan to keep Gargaara East underdeveloped.