

NEW APPEAL OF THE ITALIAN NGOs TO THE SOMALI PEOPLE

We, the Italian NGOs present in Somalia to provide medical assistance, education, water, assistance and aid to orphans and displaced people, agricultural and livestock development address a new appeal to all Somali people, in Somalia and abroad.

The kidnappings of people have become a daily weapon that affects Italian and international staff as well as Somali in an increasing systematic manner. The situation is worrying, especially because never before so many and frequent organised crimes have been witnessed in Somalia.

They are crimes affecting people committed to the common good, people that despite the risks and difficulties keep providing aid, people that believe in solidarity towards the most vulnerable and the most in need, towards their brothers and sisters. People committed to humanitarian organisations such as Mahamuud 'Abdi Aaden, Faaduma Suldaan 'Abdirahmaan, 'Ali Mao', Mahadey Biile, Iolanda Occhipinti, Giuliano Paganini, Abdirahmaan Yuusuf Arale "John", Mahamed Sheekh 'Ali, Hassan Mohamed 'Ali, Murray Watson, Patrik Amukhuma and many others.

We address the Somali people of good will: political leaders, clan leaders, religious authorities, professionals, businessmen, civil society, communities and every single person. We address all to strongly respond and react to these crimes; crimes that have nothing to do with the history and culture of the Somali people and that represent a slow though unappeasable suicide for Somalia itself.

Whoever know may speak. Whoever can may act. Whoever can contribute to stop these crimes may do so. We ask the immediate liberation of all the abducted. We ask it with conviction and confidence: the same confidence that has tied and continues to tie many of us and of our NGOs to you and Somalia.

Somalia cannot accept that these cruelties continue, preventing any attempt to bring aid and support to the people, destroying any attempt to re-establish peace. No country, no religion, no community may exist if dominated by crime and fear.

We are and we will continue to be beside you: though we will be able to do so only in the face of a strong and steady reaction of all the Somali people against the continuous spread of crime and inhumanity.

Italian NGOs Association, 3rd July 2008